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First name: Michael

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings,

I am writing in support of keeping our public lands open to snowmobiling. There remains no proof that over-the-snow travel harms any portion of the eco-system, animals or any other conceivable portion of God's snow covered green earth! In fact, it is a wonderful way for families and friends to enjoy God's creation. The snowmobile clubs and associations are filled with people who are good stewards of our back country mountains. They pack out what they pack in, and leave absolutely no trace of their presence... All evidence (tracks) left on the snow disappears with the next snow fall and finally melts away each spring.

I would like to show my children and grandchildren the awe-inspiring parts of God's beautiful winter mountain gifts to us. I grew up in Montana, snowmobiling everywhere we could reach with our old, 1970's vintage snowmobiles. But that was not far in comparison to what we can reach with our modern snowmobiles. We can now safely reach deep into the mountains where the snow is so deep that no animals live there in the winter. And, we get there without causing any damage to the environment.

I was born and raised in Montana, but left after high school to serve our great country. I spent 24 years in the United States Navy flying helicopters in and out of combat zones, ensuring all United States citizens may live in a safe country and pursue their God given right to enjoy freedom. Now, when I have retired from the Navy, went back to school to become a Pastor, and moved back to our beloved Northwest in July, 2012, I find that my rights and my freedom - that I fought to safeguard for all US citizens - even to ride a snowmobile in a safe, environmentally friendly way, are being taken away. It is neither right, nor legally justified to close areas to ANY human use, let alone to eco-friendly snowmobiling. I therefore implore you to do the right thing and allow free citizens to enjoy the mountains that God has made for us, and given to us, for our use.