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Comments: I strongly object to the proposed action.

The Forest Service has failed to thoroughly analyze direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of snowmobiling/snowmobiles. The basis for restricting snowmobiling after March 31 is flawed. The EA needs to be retracted until proper data collection and study can be completed. Specialist reports cannot be relied upon until thorough field data collection is utilized and incorporated.

The FS did not address comments from neighboring communities and forests where snowmobilers access the Kaniksu. I.e.: Area west of Rattle Mountain where many people from Troy MT snowmobile the Keeler area. The area west of rattle mountain should remain open to OSV after March 31 just like the area around Moose Lake. The neighboring Kootenai Forest is now proposing to force the same restrictions north, south, and east of the Rattle Mountain saddle. So effectively, all of the high elevation snowmobiling in the area will be blocked. This is not acceptable. The low elevation areas do not have sufficient snow pack after March 31 to be rideable.

After proper data collection, the possible mitigation would be to change the March 31 restriction to later in the spring. May 15 would be feasible for everyone. And it coincides with the dates specified in your EA for den emergence.

Denver Winslow

Troy, MT