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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an avid winter recreation user, I have serious concerns regarding the transport of logged lumber from the sites mentioned in this project during the winter months of December through April.

To be clear, I support the logging of the proposed areas, but ONLY if other exit routes other than Divide Road are to be used. If Divide Road is to be used, I stand in opposition to the project.

Divide Road constitutes the main corridor of all winter recreation for snowmobilers, dog sledders, x-country skiers, etc. Plowing of Divide Road will make it virtually impossible to access the popular areas west of the highway causing undue stress on the areas to the east side. Even while only a portion (approx. 10 miles would be plowed), that would make it impossible for the grooming association to get their groomer out to the west side in an efficient, safe or economical fashion--having to back track numerous miles does not make sense.

Again, I stand in support of the project if another route such as Moose Creek or other alternate road not using Divide Road is used for the transport of logs in the winter months. I believe my comments stand in agreement with Mr. Gliko's statements regarding the use of Moose Creek Road/non-use of Divide Rd. Plowing of Divide Road makes the trail unusable for recreation (in a plowed state) and would also economically harm the business owners/users that stay in and originate in Niehart as the trail from Niehart connects to the affected part of Divide Rd.

Finally, I believe the project maps were misleading in that the inset context map covers the area showing the main winter trailhead parking area. Further, the maps do not show the proposed routes over the winter trails map causing more confusion and obfuscation. I would like to request that the USFS create and upload maps showing the proposed hauling routes over the winter trails map so that users can understand the impacts of each proposed route in relation to the normally used trails. If this cannot be done in a timely manner, the comment period should be extended or the project delayed to allow for proper dissemination of the new material.