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Comments: While this over the snow management plan looks good at first glance there are some major flaws that need to be addressed. On the proposal map there are a decent amount of high country areas open to osv, however the lower elevation rds leading to the open areas would be closed to osv traffic which affectively eliminates access to the open areas as the closed roads are usually not driveable with a wheeled vehicle. An example would be the lower portion of the big creek rd which would be closed to snowmobiles but undriveable with any other vehicle during winter. making the osv open area at the upper end of Big creek impossible to access from the koocanusa side. This is just one example of the proposal map. anyone who looks at the proposal map closely will see this pattern continues through the whole area. If these boundaries are put in place it will effectively shut down 90% of all over the snow recreation in the Kootenai National Forest. including hound hunting, trapping, snowmobiling and even winter firewood cutting. As far as damage to winter habitat it is pretty obvious that the wildlife is not bothered by osv use. all animals love to run snomobile trails and I believe if anything it makes winter easier for them. I oppose this plan and feel the vast majority of KNF should be open to over the snow vehicle use. this plan seems to be aimed at keeping people from enjoying their national forest.

Ben D.