Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/16/2023 3:31:38 PM

First name: TOM Last name: KOBZA Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to this closure, I have hunted and snowmobiled in this area. To close it to motorized use or snowmobiling is unfair and against the laws that our Congress passed to keep it open.

I have seen many grizzlies there to the point that I haven't hunted it in 2 years because of the overabundance of them in the area that we hunted. To say they are on the decline is untrue.

Our business relies on snowmobilers passing through Billing on their way to the Ten Lakes riding area. This would directly affect our livelihood and the lives of people in that area. To close an area to cater to a small percentage of people and put a larger population of people out of areas to access and recreate is unjust.

Our company has donated and worked with the Forest Service for almost 10 years to make our riding areas safer and support all of Montana's search and rescue, closing this area would force us to no longer support those districts or be able to support the search and rescue in that area.

Again, I strongly discourage the closure of this area, the economic impact will be much larger, and I don't believe that much if any research can support the decline in wildlife. I would support an independent source to monitor or to do a assessment of the wildlife in the area. I don't believe that biologist that are paid by the same people that want to close it already have a biased view of the area.

Feel free to contact me about my opinion. We plan on sharing this to all of our social media pages with member greater than 300k subscribers, most of them enjoy the snowmobiling and are dedicated to keeping these areas open.