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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Objection Comment

IPNF Kaniksu North Zone OSV Plan

Dear, Doug Nishek

I am writing on behave as a concerned citizen to the proposal that the North Idaho Working Group Recommended and the Final Approval of the project presented. Particularly my concern is the impact that Snowmobiles versus the Grizzly population. This plan affects me for the next 60years as I'm one of the young guys participating in this project.

Grizzly Vs Snowmobiles

I have a job that allows me to have conversations with all groups that have dealt with Grizzly problems from when it all started with the Loggers, Cattle grazers, Miners and now the OSV motorized group.

Every so many years maybe 15-20 the wildlife officials and conservation groups have always raised the number of Grizzly bear population to meet certain criteria to where now we have abundance of the Grizzly.

In the Month of July year 2023 there is currently 6 different collared grizzlies on the Ruby Creek/Ruby Ridge area in Boundary County. With that being said that is the Base of Roman Nose which 1000s of snowmobiles ride in the surrounding area every winter from November-May. If all information that the USFS presented to the North Idaho Working Group over the last 2 years was real current data these 6 Grizzly Bears are miracles or have the grizzly bears adapted to the surrounding environment which has been heavily logged as well as developed with new road systems on the State of Idaho and Private lands.

The problem is we are not using real time data and studies to set restrictions and shut down recreational activities to areas where populations of all wildlife are well populated to overpopulated. Data used and presented to the North Idaho Working Group was dated anywhere from 20-50 year old studies in demographic areas not related to the Purcells, Cabinets, and Selkirks. (Yellowstone)

With that being said I have not been a supporter of the North Idaho Working Groups proposal or the Final Draft with the alternatives that has been presented to us. This plan can be better implemented with the opportunity of Grizzly Bears being delisted we need a immediate action plan to open areas that are in danger of being closed. On July 27th Senator Risch of introduced Bill s.2571 the Grizzly Bear Review and Resource act (GRRR Bill) to delist the Grizzly bears in the lower 48. If this bill is passed we need better planning than what is in place to open the denning areas that would be closed on April 1st.

Local Economy

As a owner of Selkirk Fabrication LLC out of Bonners Ferry, Idaho I supply the area with hard goods, oils, lubricants, safety gear and repairs for OSV activities. On average I have osv related sales for the past 3 year have amounted near the \$10,000 dollar range in the month of April alone. The average snowmobile goes through 1/3 of a gallon of oil per ride at \$70/gal as well as 8 gallons of gasoline \$4.50/gal. If a group of 4 rides a Saturday and Sunday that's \$186 in oil and \$288 in non-ethanol fuel. Roughly \$474 dollars is being shorted per weekend in a 4 man group and you could easily multiply that by 20-30 times \$9480-14220 a weekend and for the month you're taking away a little over 50k in business opportunities to the town of Bonners Ferry. Sandpoint has probably double those numbers.

Thanks, Doug Nishek for taking the time to read thru my objection letter. I am a firm believer that this plan can be a more representative action for our region due to the amount of OSV vehicles we have in the Northern Zone of Idaho.