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Title:

Comments: The closure of so many traditional riding areas for oversnow vehicles proposed by this plan is unfortunate at best and an absolute disaster for the winter motorized riding community. Although the the claim of 1.2 million acres of open area seems like a generous offer, less than 10% of that area is actually accessible or rideable.

As a matter of record I have over 50 years experience riding snowmobiles and more recently snobikes and for the last 25 years ridden extensively in the southern KNF. In that time I have never seen evidence of a bear den or emerging bear from a den. The idea of a two tiered riding season again makes no sense. In this part of the KNF as the snowpack dwindles in the spring access is naturally difficult if not impossible to the areas designated on the map as Grizzly Bear denning areas. That said I'm against implementing a two tiered riding season.

The closure of many historic riding areas in high mountain basins including the head of Beaver Creek and Whitepine Creek makes no sense. This is not winter game range and I have never seen evidence of animals in these high mountain areas other than the occasional rabbit track. I have also never seen any skiers or snowshoers in that area, it is generally too far to access on foot.

The closure of the Dry Creek area is also unacceptable as it is not winter game range and offers no reason for the closure other than the whispered comment that it is adjacent to the "proposed " Scotchmans Peak RWA and would invite violation of that boundary. That is unprecedented as there are many riding areas adjacent to RWA's and IRA's that are open to oversnow motorized vehicles. It is worth noting that the Scotchmans Peak RWA has been sitting at that designation for nearly 50 years and apparently never met the requirements by Congress to give it permanent protection.

My experience is snowmobiling and snobiking leave no trace of their presence once the snow melts and ultimately that's the goal of any recreational activity on the KNF. Do not close these areas to an activity that affects little of the pristine nature of these mountains and offers access that otherwise would be impossible by any other means.