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Title:
Comments: This proposed travel plan is unacceptable in its current form. It closes down thousands of acres of historically open snowmobiling areas which includes some if not most of the most desirable riding areas in the backcountry.

The area that encompasses the head of Beaver Creek and Whitepine Creek that is southeast of the Black Peak trail has always been open to riding, the current proposal would close all of that country yet there is no legitimate reason for the closure. It is not winter game range nor a Grizzly bear recovery area.

The other area that is closed for no legitimate reason is the area below Ulm Peak above the warming hut, again this area has always been open to snowmobiles and yet it is left of the current proposal. Why?

In addition the Dry Creek area in Bull River is closed, yet it is not winter game range. The whispered comment I heard was that it was too close to the "proposed", Scotchmans Peak Wilderness but not in the RWA. There are many areas that are open to over snow motorized vehicles adjacent to Wilderness, RWA's and IRA's, it is unprecedented to close any area just because of its proximity to these closed areas.

It's worth noting that the Scotchmans Peak RWA has had that designation for nearly 50 years and Congress has not yet seen fit to make it Wilderness with a capital W. The KNF should not manage the land around an RWA as wilderness.

There are a number of other areas in the Northern Kootenai slated for closure such as Rock Candy and others that is unprecedented in its attempt to destroy the back country snowmobiling experience.

In all the years i have ridden the high country (50), I have never had an issue with conflicts with skiers or snowshoers, as much of those areas are nearly impossible to access on foot because of the distance involved. Any issues they may have with the noise is quickly resolved when we are out of sight.

I cannot support this proposal in its present form because it takes too much. The 1.2 million acres of open snowmobiling area is a typical bait and switch tactic as the majority of that is steep timbered brushy country that is not rideable in any form.