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Organization: Wild Horse Plains Back Country Horsemen

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Comments: August 20, 2023

Chad Benson, Forest Supervisor

Kootenai National Forest

31374 US Highway 2

Libby, Montana 59923-3022

RE: Kootenai National Forest Over Snow Motorized Use Travel Plan

The Wildhorse Plains Chapter of Back County Horsemen submits the following comment, applicable forest-wide:

We oppose opening areas to over-snow vehicle (OSV) use beyond the historic March 31 closure date posted on most roads and trails. Roads and trails in areas included in the proposed plan offer the only opportunities for early season horseback riding access. Extending the period of access in these areas through May 31 will lead to user conflicts between equestrian and OSV users during this additional 60-day period.

We respectfully request that the agency consider leaving existing historical closure dates (March 31 of each year) in place for the continued safety and enjoyment of all forest users.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Wild Horse Plains Back Country Horsemen

Pains, MT 59859