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Comments: First off, I am opposed to any new restrictions to over the snow vehicles on the Kootenai National Forest.

I have ridden the high country in the KNF for 40 years through the winters from Dec-through the end of April. From my experience, riding the high country does not have any impact on grizzly bears. Never once have a seen where a grizzly bear has dug its way out of a den to find its tracks after being disturbed by snow vehicles. Nor has anyone I have ever ridden with experienced this as well. Using a Grizzly bear, Lynx or Wolverines as a tool to stop snow vehicles from being in the high country is hogwash. I have seen Lynx tracks on two occasions over the 40 years I have ridden. It makes no sense that a Lynx would be in the high country on a regular basis during times of snow vehicle use as there is no food source for them. There is hardly any sign of any animal in the high country due to the depth of the snow. Why the federal government would want to shut access off from this user group is beyond me. One of the main things you see and hear from the forest service is leave no trace. This is as close to leaving no trace as it can get. When the snow melts you wouldn't know they were ever there. This is about the only way to enjoy the high country in the winter other than looking at it from a distance. Leave the high country open for over the snow vehicles.