Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/20/2023 8:57:46 PM
First name: Lincoln
Last name: County Sno-Kats
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear US Forest Service,
We have concerns about this over the snow project....

Are all the Year-round open roads open to snowmobiles? We were told one thing but read in the July scoping packet anther. Scoping letter page 1 - Roads open to year-round wheeled traffic, as designated on the motor vehicle use map (MVUM)from 2019, will remain open to provide access to and between over-snow areas but the maps provided at the public meeting do NOT show them as open to over-snow vehicles. We want to see all open year-round roads to also be open to over-snow vehicles, including roads through Big Game Winter Habitat.

We try to promote snowmobiling as a family sport, and we need the roads to teach our kids on when first snowmobiling. Many people also use the roads to access their favorite winter fishing lakes or trapping grounds or even leave right from their property for an evening ride. Many locations out our back doors are considered Big Game Winter Areas and closed to over snow area riding, but we want the opportunity to use the year-round open roads through those areas. Example locations are Swede Mountain, Teepee Creek, Cowell Creek, the entire Fisher River area, Silver Butte, Houghten Creek, and many other locations. Keep all Year-round open roads also open to over the snow vehicles.

Why are we fighting again to keep Dry Creek open? We established years ago, as a joint effort, that the area we ride in, is within the proper areas for riding. It is out the recommended wilderness area, and it is not in the Big Game Winter Range or the Wolverine area. Keep the area open to over the snow vehicles in the Dry Creek area no matter how small you may think it is. We enjoy riding this area and have for many generations.

We have some members of the club that own land with cabins on them that they snowmobile into by use of the open roads systems. This is another reason why over the snow vehicles should be allowed on all open roads systems.

There are several major roads that we use, some are FS and some that are county roads that are not maintained in the winter. Many snowmobilers like to go to the Vermillion and many of us the FDR. Make sure these roads are open to over the snow vehicles.

Snowmobiles are used by downhill skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers to access places in the winter months. Roads are their access to their favorite spots as well. Keep roads open to over the snow vehicles.

Meadow Creek to Spread creek is used by many and a very popular riding area for many decades. Historic use in this area has never been an issue, hence the permit the FS has given to groom the road to get to our play area. From the maps we were shown wolverine habitat is blocking some of our riding area. Keeler looked to have been in Wolverine habitat as well, but you made an excepting for that area so please make an exception for the area between Meadow and Spread creek to allow over snow vehicle use. Many also use the road system and ride into Idaho to the Fiest Creek restaurant. This provides money and helps supports local businesses in our area. Keep this area open to over the snow vehicles.