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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an avid Trapper and fisherman that uses snowmobile to access my trapping grounds and mountain lakes to ice fish. From the information I see from the Maps online all my trapping grounds and mountain lakes are not accessible anymore by over the snow vehicles. Why are wheeled vehicles, horsed, e-bikes, bicycles, hikers, and all other users can use open year-round FS roads but over the snow vehicles are not? These other users cannot or do not use open year-round roads in the winter due to snow depths.

My kids have just gone through drivers' education and learned road etiquette. There is no reason why snow vehicles cannot use the open roads. If a wheeled vehicle and snowmobile happen to be on the same road, both are educated on road etiquette and can share the road. Most times both vehicles are not on the same road due to snow depths. Too little of snow will ruin skis and tracks and too much snow wheeled vehicles get stuck. Allow All open FS roads even roads through Big Game Habitat open to over the snow vehicles.

The amount of gear I have to pack for setting up my trap lines weighs well over 100 lbs. Most of the trapping needs to be done within the Big Game Winter Habitat areas because that is where the wolves go to eat dinner in the winter. If trappers do not have access to these areas to manage the predators, you won't have any Big Game left. We barely make a dent in the numbers of wolves taken because of the number of litters they have and how hard it is to trap them. Cost, time, and now having access issues is going to make trapping too hard for most if the roads are not allowed for us to use. Allow all open year-round roads in Big Game Winter habitat to remain open so I can continue to trap by getting my gear my machine into the trapping area. I always hike into my trap line from the road to keep the human smell down anyways. I can carry my gear several hundred yards but not miles. Time is a factor as well when trapping because per law, traps have to be checked every 48 hrs. and if I had to hike far and still work a 40-hr. work week then trapping would no longer be something I could do. Again, allow all open year-round roads in Big Game Winter habitat to remain open to snow vehicles.

I have taken my kids ice fishing since the time they could walk. My son is now perusing pro-bass fishing tournaments and enjoys ice fishing still today. If our youths cannot get access to our public lands to enjoy the outdoors because you will not allow use to snowmobile to access our favorite lakes to fish in the winter, you are robbing our youth of a recreation opportunity. The FS says they have 5 priorities and 1 being enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access to the lands. By taken away our use of roads you are not doing what your mission is. Allow all open year-round roads to be open to over the snow vehicles, even though Big Game Winter habitat.