Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/21/2023 12:36:50 AM
First name: Mickey
Last name: Carr
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Based off the KNF Forest Plan and the maps provided for this project (MA, Big Game Winter Range, Wolverine, and Griz Maps) - I found several locations that have areas that SHOULD be allowed to snowmobile but have been taken off the allowed area map. WHY? There is nothing provided saying that this area must be closed based on the documents provided. Just because someone thinks it is too close to a closure area is NOT a good reason. It is very difficult to find ALL these types of areas based on having been given separate maps instead of overlay maps. How many have the people/public missed that you are taking away? None of these should be included and taken away from the snowmobilers.
Location 1# - Dry Creek on the Cabinet Ranger District. This location has been historically used by snowmobilers and still popular today. Most of the area is too steep for snowmobilers but the area that is NOT in a closed MA or Big Game Winter Range or in the Wolverine closure area is where we currently ride so leave it left open. Add that back to the map for us to use.
Location 2# - Chicago Peak on the Cabinet Ranger District. Again, an area before the end of the road 2241 was removed off the map. WHY? It is NOT in a closed MA, or in Big Game Winter Range, or in Wolverine closure area so why take it off the map? Just because you want a buffer is NOT a reason to close. Add that back to the map for us to use.
Location 3# - Camp Creek on the Three River Ranger District. Not in Big Game Winter Range or Wolverine closure area so why take it off the map? Just because you want a buffer is NOT a reason to close. Your Forest Plan does not say Buffer anything. Add this back onto the map as open.
Location 4# - Powerline/20 ODD on the Cabinet Ranger District. Not in Big Game winter range or wolverine closure area so why take it off the map. Add the section of area located on the north side of road 2220 back onto the map as open to over snow vehicles.

The map is showing roads open on the MVUM to wheeled vehicles but does not say they are open to over the snow vehicles. The scoping document write up says they all are but if that is true why are they not all on the maps? All open yearlong roads should be open to all users/recreationist including over the snow vehicles. Road rules apply to all vehicles or recreationist using them so why exclude snowmobiles? Snowmobiles cannot ride on dirt for any length without causing damage to their machinery so an encounter with a wheeled vehicle is limited.

Allow over snow vehicle use on all open yearlong NF roads, including open roads that go through Big Game Winer Ranges. This will allow trappers to get into areas for trapping. Trappers cannot hike their gear far due to the weight of the gear that is needed for trapping so they need to be able to ride in as far as they can on an open road system. We won't have Big Game Ranges if we cannot manage the predator that go where the food source is in the winter. Most of the Winter Range areas are only used by trappers due to the lack of snow normally and most snowmobiler go to the deeper snow, so they don't damage their machine on hitting vegetation. If you are worried about the snowmobiles harassing the animals in the winter in the winter ranges, then why can a wheeled truck still be allowed? Add all open yearlong roads to allow over the snow use so trappers can trap. The Fisher River drainage is a BIG part of our trapping area that we need access too.

Add over the snow use allowed to all open yearlong NF roads. Another reason that we should be allowed to use over the snow vehicle is private land access. There are many open yearlong roads that private landowners use to access their property. Most private land located many miles through NF lands don't plow the NFS roads to get to their lands but take over the snow vehicles to them instead due to the cost of plowing and not being their primary residence. These landowners do NOT need permits to use yearlong open roads to access their lands. TOO MANY Locations to list and with Southern Pines or Green Diamond selling more land to private people this list will continue to grow.

Roads 148 and 154 are NOT secondary HWY as shown on your maps but county roads that are not maintained or plowed.

If all the open yearlong roads are NOT open to over the snow vehicles, then access to open areas cannot be reached without trespassing. You are allowing open areas but no way to access a lot of them. Add all open yearlong NF Roads to map as open to over the snow vehicles.
Howard Lake, Spar Lake, Alvord Lake, Kilbrennan Lake, Othorp Lake, Frank Lake, Murphy Lake, Dickey Lake, Frozen Lake, Upper Stillwater Lake, Lagoni lake, Loon Lake, Sylvan Lake, Vinal Lake, Lake Koocanusa Reservoir are all popular Ice fishing lakes that people snowmobile into to fish. If all open yearlong roads are not open to over the snow vehicles these lakes will not be accessible to recreationist to fish. Add all open yearlong NF Roads to map as open to over the snow vehicles for our ice fishing access.