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Comments: Kootenai National Forest Over-Snow Motorized Use Travel Plan # 64358

Many others and I have been accessing our public lands including KNF for generations enjoying many types of outdoor activities all year long including not just snowmobiling but hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing etc. These are activities that families and friends enjoy together. We continue to teach each generation about our land and to respect all that lives within it while enjoying the great outdoors and yet we keep getting more and more restrictions and closures on what we can do, when, and how we can use our land.

The OSV use in the KNF seems to be an ongoing battle with no resolutions, compromises or evidence to support what is being proposed as the reasons to close the OSV as of March 31st.

With that being said, please take the following into consideration while making a decision that affects us ALL!!

The comment period was not adequate to properly review the proposed OSV Travel Plan for all areas of the KNF. Most of us knew nothing about this proposal or the meetings until the day of the meetings, which were held during hours that most are working.

There is no scientific evidence that was provided to prove the OSV use causes any harm to the Grizzly Bear, Wolverine or Canada Lynx. I have been recreating during the winter months my entire life and have yet to see any of the wildlife that is part of the cause/reason for tighter restrictions and use of public lands.

Why was the current OSV Travel Plan not presented while the proposed OSV Travel plan is being discussed? The people deserve the right to know what the current plan looks like vs what is being proposed.

A lot of the areas open after March 31st cannot be accessed after that date due to the areas around it being closed, this needs to be reviewed and presented on maps that one doesn't have to piece together like puzzle.

As many of us already know, recreation brings people to our communities, which only helps the economy and revenue during the winter months. By closing or restricting the OSV season and use this will only hurt our local businesses and families.