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Comments: In the process of creating a Winter Travel Plan for the Kootenai NF, I ask that in the minimization criteria that you consider more potential noise and user conflict analysis. It is important to ensure that places that are open to snowmobile use wont lead to snowmobiling in adjacent areas that are off-limits to the use, such as Wilderness areas. I believe it will be critical that the Forest Service incorporate robust education, monitoring, and enforcement into this plan.

Additionally, there are some areas in the proposed action that should be designated as nonmotorized because of their importance for wildlife. Adjacent to Cabinet Mountains Wilderness at the southern end of the range are three inventoried roadless areas Galena, Barren, and Allen Peak that the Forest Service is considering opening large parts of to snowmobiling. All of these areas provide critical connectivity for grizzlies, wolverines, fishers, and Canada lynx, connectivity that can be negatively impacted by snowmobiling. During the Kootenai Forest plan revision, please consider designating these areas to remain non-motorized.