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Comments: Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Kootenai winter travel plan documents. I appreciate that the public has been given the opportunity to see the minimization criteria at this early phase. Thank you, also, for not allowing snowmobiling in wild places like recommended Wilderness and research natural areas.

There are some areas that I believe should not be opened to snowmobile use due to the important habitat and connectivity they provide. This includes large portions of the Galena, Barren, and Allen Peak inventoried roadless areas south of the Cabinet Wilderness. I also encourage you to look at collaborative proposals that have been brought forward over the past 10 years.

Like many others, I want to ensure that any areas the Forest Service opens to snowmobile use are backed up by a full rationale that takes into account the guidelines around minimizing damaging impacts to soil, watershed, and vegetation; minimizing significant disruption to wildlife habitat; and minimizing conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses. Going forward, I recommend that the environmental analysis include additional components that address conflict that may occur as a result of the noise snowmobiles create. Id also like to see the Kootenai National Forest create a robust system that will keep snowmobiling out of areas where the use is prohibited.

Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to seeing the environmental analysis.