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Comments: Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Kootenai winter travel plan scoping documents. I really appreciate that the public was provided the opportunity to see the minimization criteria at this early phase. I also commend the Forest Service for not allowing snowmobiling in wild places like recommended Wilderness and research natural areas.

The Forest Services 2015 Over-Snow Vehicle rule creates a paradigm where areas are closed to snowmobiling unless designated as open to use. 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 would 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 implementation, monitoring, and enforcement system that will help keep snowmobiling out of areas where the use is prohibited.

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