Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/27/2023 9:22:51 PM
First name: Anon
Last name: Anon
Organization:
Title:
Comments: To whom it may concern,

I recently read the Kootenai National Forest Over-snow Motorized Use Travel Plan Scoping Packet and have a few concerns I would like addressed. First, I appreciate that there are plans in place to protect the grizzly bear population by restricting over-snow motorized vehicle use in high-denning areas. I am concerned about the timeline and dates that these trails will be open. With temperatures getting warmer every year, are these dates conservative enough to ensure the protection of the young grizzly bears? I would hate for our anthropogenic use of wilderness to harm these endangered species. Also, since these are endangered species, should we not do all that we can to protect these creatures and put more restrictions on the OSV use in these areas?
My second concern is with the enforcement of these recreation areas. I see on the Preliminary Proposed Action Map that there are two main categories of OSV areas. It shows that there is a small strip of area on the southwest part of the map that is open until May, but there is a small section within the strip that is only open until March. How will you enforce that OSV's are not using this area past the dates? Also, what is preventing people from going off the trails (to go around this protected area) which would cause further damage to the natural area? Will you have people patrolling the areas to make sure people abide by the rules? I am also concerned that these motorized vehicles in snowy conditions can result in trail erosion, damage to the surrounding vegetation, and potentially impact the area's water quality. These issues could be detrimental to the ecosystem and could damage the national forest's tourism and would like to hear your thoughts about them.