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Comments: While the Kootenai National Forest OSV Plan is considering a number of important factors, namely minimizing the impacts of over snow vehicles on wildlife, natural resources, and potential conflict with other users, there is still more that should be considered. The scoping packet states that areas that may become open to over snow vehicle use are being "further refined… based on species and habitat requirements for Endanger Species Act (ESA)- listed species" (2). It is important that impacts to endangered species are taken into consideration, however endangered species should not be the sole focus of potential impacts on wildlife. As the Winter Wildlands Alliance points out in their assessment of the Kootenai Winter Travel Plan, there are three significant roadless areas (the Galena, Barren, and Allen Peak Inventoried Roadless Areas) near the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness that are part of critical habitat connectivity for grizzlies, wolverines, fishers, and Canada lynx. Given the importance of these areas for the above species, serious investigation into how the use of OSVs would harm these habitats is imperative before further decisions are made. The current plan prohibits OSV use in high denning areas and some medium denning areas for grizzlies, however just because OSVs are not allowed in those specific areas does not mean those areas won't be impacted. Noise pollution from OSVs needs to be taken into consideration as it is not possible to keep noise pollution within certain boundaries and if OSV use is allowed near high/medium denning areas the denning areas are likely to be affected. Serious investigation into OSV noise pollution should also be completed prior to finalizing the plan. Additionally, the plan states that white bark pine habitats will be open from December 1 to March 31 when saplings and seedlings are protected by snow cover. While this has good intentions, it is impossible to know definitively that there will be adequate snow cover every year by December 1. Rather than determining snow cover by a specific timeframe, it should be determined by minimum depth and density of snow pack.