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Comments: I think that the management plan for this forest has some very strong points to it, but there are several questions/concerns that I would like to raise, the first regarding grizzly bear denning and the proposed Over-Snow Vehicle plan. The plan aims to close OSV use in denning habitats after March 31, when grizzlies are expected to begin emerging from their dens, but I wonder if the denning bears could still be affected by the new OSV plan even when they are in denning season in the winter, since grizzly bears rely on remote, secluded denning sites during the winter months to give birth to and protect their vulnerable cubs. Would allowing over snow vehicles into these habitats disrupt the peace and isolation that these bears require? And is there any chance that the noise and disturbance from the vehicles above their dens would stress the bears, and potentially lead them to abandon their dens and in extreme cases maybe effect the survival of grizzly cubs?

Another concern that I have is about the enforcement of the over-snow vehicle boundaries given the fact that the Kootenai National Forest is a very large area of land, and there isn't enough staff to ensure boundaries are being followed by users. Would there be designated rangers to manage this job specifically, or would boundaries be enforced by a sort of honor code without actual monitoring? What is the likelihood that over-snow vehicle users will cut across prohibited areas to get from parcel to parcel of approved land, since there are some patches that are disconnected from others? And how are these boundaries being marked for users, are they simply small signs on trees, or no signs at all? Would it make sense to align boundaries with more prominent landmarks such as rivers and roads so that the borders make more sense for OSV users?