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Comments: Thank you for providing me the opportunity to comment on the Kootenai winter travel plan scoping documents. It is important that the public has an opportunity to express their view. I applaud the Forest Service for not allowing snowmobiling in wild places like recommended Wilderness and natural areas that are under research.

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 I think it is important for the Forest Service to limit snowmobile use in areas where there is likelihood that said use will have damaging impacts to soil, watershed, and vegetation. If snowmobile use will cause significant disruption to wildlife habitat it should be prohibited. Finally, if snowmobile use will create conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses it should be forbidden. The environmental analysis must include additional components that address conflict that may occur as a result of the noise snowmobiles create. I'm not aware of how monitoring or enforcement happens within the lands managed by the Kootenai National Forest, but it seems imperative to have a clear and strong plan to make sure snowmobiles are kept out of places where their use is prohibited.

The wildlife habitat and connectivity offered by large portions of the Galena, Barren, and Allen Peak inventoried roadless areas south of the Cabinet Wilderness should not be open to snowmobile use. I understand that there have been collaborative proposals suggested in preceding years. I encourage utilizing these perspectives in final planning.

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