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Comments: My comments/objections are in relation to the snow travel closure on Granite Mountain. I believe the closure as it stands is already an over reach and to extend it only further shuts the public out of a beautiful and readily accessible zone which should be shared by more than just the privileged few who cat ski with Brundage. I understand the potential for user group conflict in heavily trafficked areas however I have never found that to be the case in this zone.

I'm sure Brundage argues they spend money to build the roads and thus should not have to share them and the potential risk that goes with multiple users on roads. There are a couple of point of contention that I have with those arguments.

For one the reason snowmobiler accessed skiers sometimes need to travel or cross their roads is because Brundage chose the best and most accessible terrain to put the snowcat operation on, each season before they ever put in roads and long after they stop maintaining them in the spring those pathways are the obvious travel zones to reach this pristine area. So whether they ever took a trip or not those would be the travel zones and ski zones motorized access skiers would be using.

Secondly, I have utilized areas with far more use in the past where travel path, or if improved roads are shared with commercial operations. Anecdotaly I have never heard about collisions or injuries in locations such as Vail Pass or Buffalo pass where usage is much higher than here. They do have restrictions and zoned and restricted uses with areas designated motorized skier use and no snowmobile play use, but private motorized skiing access is not granted to one commercial operation only. This restriction is essentially privatizing public land for a use permit that utilizes the land a few dozen days a year and pays very little for the privilege at that. As it stands the public pays a dear price losing access for the period it already does and any extension of that would be an abomination and misuse of public lands. Hopefully in the future we will see the restrictions move the other direction and more user groups informed and brought to the table than just the ones with commercial interests.