

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/17/2024 9:55:24 PM

First name: Michael

Last name: Musegades

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of keeping as much of the Great Burn area open to snowmobiling as possible. There remains no proof that over-the-snow travel harms any portion of the eco-system, animals or any other conceivable portion of God's snow covered green earth! In fact, it is a wonderful way for families and friends to enjoy God's creation. The snowmobile clubs and associations are filled with people who are good stewards of our back country mountains. They pack out what they pack in, and leave absolutely no trace of their presence... All evidence (tracks) left on the snow disappears with the next snow fall and finally melts away each spring.

I would like to snowmobile into the Great Burn to show my children and grandchildren this awe inspiring part of God's gift to us. We can snowmobile into the mountains where the snow is so deep that no animals are present. And, we get there without causing any damage to the environment.

There are folks who think that their right to have places of solitude is more important than my right to enjoy these places. And, these people are not there in the winter! Their insistence has caused RWA's to be treated as if they already are Wilderness Areas. Their insistence on having their rights - has infringed upon my rights! Only Congress can designate Wilderness Areas, so RWA's MUST NOT be treated as de-facto Wilderness Areas! The Great Burn Area and all other RWA's must be governed in a way that allows for historic usages, like snowmobiling. We already have plenty of Wilderness Areas. The Great Burn area should be kept open to allow mechanized over the snow usage.

I was born and raised in Montana, but left after high school to serve our great country. I spent 24 years in the United States Navy flying helicopters in and out of combat zones, ensuring all United States citizens may live in a safe country and pursue their God given right to enjoy freedom. Now, when I have retired from the Navy, went back to school to become a Pastor, and moved back to our beloved Northwest in July, 2012, I find that my rights and my freedom - that I fought to safeguard for all US citizens - even to ride a snowmobile in a safe, environmentally friendly way, are being taken away. It is neither right, nor legally justified to close areas to ANY human use, let alone to eco-friendly snowmobiling. I therefore implore you to do the right thing and allow free citizens to enjoy the mountains that God has made for us, and given to us, for our use.