Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 10:15:32 PM First name: David Last name: Melanson Organization:

## Title:

Comments: As an avid outdoor explorer, recreationalist and advocate for balance use of our public lands, I protest against this 40,000 acre project that would thin 13,000 acres of forest north of McCall and create a permanent snowmobile ban on Granite Mountain. Snowmobiling has proven around the world to have no degrading impact on the environment and lands in use. I am in favor of the managing of our forest but not at the cost of permanent snowmobiling ban. It would also financially degrade the local business that directly or indirectly support OHV use in these areas. I and like many other snow, off road trail and outdoor recreationalist directly volunteer to maintain trails, roads and other US Forest Service needs that benefit other users such as hikers, mountain bikers. During the winter months we often have fallen trees or branches that block trail systems. Helping snowmobilers and local clubs, take care of the clearing and removal. Snowmobiles and trained individuals, also are a very needed tool for avalanche rescues of varied mountain activities.