

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/28/2024 3:38:49 AM

First name: Rick

Last name: Shaw

Organization: Backcountry Sled Patriots

Title: Member

Comments: I have tremendous gratitude to the Forest Service and the process that led to the Clearwater Forest Plan Record of Decision. For so many years the motorized over the snow community has been unheard and shut out of the process leading to closure after closure for our type of outdoor recreation. Thank you so much for hearing us and allowing reduction of the size of the Great Burn RWA that now allows snowmobiling in the "Hoodoo" and Williams Lake/Blacklead Mtn. areas. However, I do think some further adjustment needs to be considered. I do not understand the logic to leave the remaining RWA area closed to snowmobiling. This decision is inconsistent with the 2012 Forest Planning Rules.

219.10 multiple Use (10)(b)(iv) .... management of areas recommended for wilderness designation to protect and maintain the ecological and social characteristics that provide the basis for their suitability for wilderness designation.

Motorized over the snow activity does not impair the ecological and social characteristics of the RWA. This activity has minimal impact as back country recreation, be it motorized or non-motorized. Due to the deep level of snow in the back country there is minimal wildlife at the high elevations in this area. Wildlife is not disturbed. Impact to the riding areas is non-existent as all sign of this type of recreation disappears as the snow melts. There are no social conflicts. The riding areas are so challenging and the distance is so great that the riding areas are inaccessible to cross country skiers, snowboarders and snowshoers.

The majority of the RWA is not accessible by motorized over snow recreation however the areas known as "Surveyor" and the "Fish Lake" area are accessible. The ROD allows summer motorized access within the RWA to Fish Lake, yet closed to back country riding. This is inconsistent and seems to be contradiction of terms.

Please reconsider and allow over the snow access in the "Surveyor" and "Fish Lake" areas pointed out above.

Respectfully yours.