Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 12:29:30 AM

First name: Judith Last name: Titius Organization:

Title:

Comments: In my experience of living 50 years in the McCall area the Forest Service seems to continue to limit the use of the forest by the citizens.

The population of the State of Idaho continues to increase but the numbers of camping sites in the forests do not. Out of state people come to use the National Forests as well.

Many years ago, the Payette National Forest did a study of the forest use as there was conflict between the backcountry skiers and the snowmobile riders. I am sure that use by both groups has continued to grow. At that time "cat skiing" and helicopter skiing were topics of concern. As I recall the snowmobilers were asked to "go further out." Even then there was no further out place to go. Since then several areas often used by snowmobilers have been eliminated by property owners and the expansion of cross country skiers in the Little Ski Hill area. What happened to "share the forest?"

The question of damage to the forest was also brought up during these meetings as the damage done to create the "cat tracks" used to get skiers into the back country was much greater than the damage done by a snowmobiler tracking through the forest. And the snowmobilers were banned from using the cat tracks.

It also puzzles me why there are plans to increase the size of parking lots while reducing the area of use. The result will be overuse and confrontation in crowded areas.

Reference is made to "closure." Does this mean closure to everyone or only people who choose to recreate on a motorized vehicle? If cat skiing is allowed that means a motorized vehicle is required to transport the skiers into a closed area. That seems like a bit of a conflict of interest. Is one group getting preference over another? Let's just keep sharing the forest.