

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 4:37:25 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a local, I support the vegetation management and treatment and proactive steps towards fire mitigation and prevention in our community. Thank you.

I am concerned about the amount of proposed dispersed camping to be removed in the Brundage and Bear Basin areas. If dispersed camping is removed, will there be other camping opportunities provided such as the construction of maintained designated campgrounds? I do believe we need more camping areas and opportunities, not less. Developed, reservable camp sites might make a great addition to that area or at least a compromise to the lost camping opportunities.

I also support the parking lot expansions and additions as that seems very necessary for the amount of users our parking lots are seeing but it also brings up concerns of overuse. If the parking areas for example enable more over-snow traffic, will grooming be able to keep up with increased snowmobile traffic? Maybe it would be better to create or expand parking lots in other areas to help disperse traffic?

I do not support the year round Granite Mountain closure first of all because of the many times I've snowmobiling in the area after it's re-opened and I have not seen any ski tracks in areas that are closed seasonally and proposed to be closed year round. The current closure area also includes a lot of acreage that skiers do not ski because the terrain is un-skiable but prime for snowmobilers. I believe the current closure area should actually be reduced to areas only skiers actually use if a closure is to stay. Is there actual user data that supports a seasonal closure for as much of the terrain that is currently closed temporarily? And where is the data that supports a year round closure?