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Comments: I am wri??ng to share feedback regarding the Kootenai OSV Travel Management Plan. I enjoy recrea??ng on public landand want to express my support for keeping access open in the Panhandle Forest for all types of recrea??on uses,including OSV use. I believe through proper management and educa??on trails roads and areas can remain open withoutnega??ve impacts. Proper access will help mi??gate damage by preven??ng concentra??on of use and impacts.Wildlife is an area of concern within the management plan. Many species were iden??fied and measures were proposedto ensure protec??on for these animals and their denning habitat. The USFS needs to use best available science in se??ngboundaries and making decisions. Currently bear popula??ons are being managed appropriately therefore the need todesignate more wildlife habitat or enact more restric??ons in the name of preserva??on is inconsistent and unnecessary.Yellowstone NP conducted a study on motorized winter use on wildlife and showed no significant impact. Areas shouldnot be restricted due to poten??al denning habitat.These forests include wilderness areas and other restric??ve designa??ons. In other words, there is already very restric??vemanagement in the areas bordering the forest and Forest Service lands should be managed for the greatest good for thegreatest number of people. Currently approximately one million acres of the forest is set aside from this planning processdue to restric??ve management designa??ons. Restric??ng OSV use to specific dates is arbitrary and capricious. The USFSshould develop an alterna??ve that allows the date-restricted areas to be managed when motorized access standards aremet. Dry Creek Area should not be removed due to proximity to Wilderness. USFS cannot create buffer zones.2The USFS should finally begin to reverse its decades-long systema??c discrimina??on against those with mobilityimpairment-related disabili??es. I am 70 years old and can no longer enjoy the Hawkins Lake/Buckhorn Ridge areas as Ihave for over 40 years without the use of my snowmobile and 4-wheeler. Travel management policies focused on"minimizing" the environmental impacts of motorized recrea??on have resulted in a drama??c increase of lands that areclosed to those who can only access public lands with motorized assistance. OSV access allows those with mobilityimpairment disabili??es to enjoy winter recrea??on on USFS lands.While the scoping proposal doesn't iden??fy using minimum snow depth requirements to allow for snowmobile use, I amopposed to any recommenda??on that snow depth be used as a motorized access standard. Snow depth isn't a reliablestandard for motorized access. Managers should have discre??on to allow OSV use if the use won't result in meaningfulenvironmental impacts.I am opposed to the USFS closing any areas to OSV use for alleged user conflict. USFS shouldn't be basing its decisions offof the subjec??ve preferences of users who want to restrict the use of others. Areas that are currently closed tomotorized users for cross country skiing should be analyzed to be opened to OSV use. It is clear in other areas these usescan co-exist.In conclusion, I believe in shared use and that there is enough public land for all to enjoy as long as agencies use bestprac??ces. Please refrain from closures as roads and trails are cri??cal to the forest, and me personally. I vote, and I will bepaying close a??en??on to your par??cipa??on.