Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/28/2024 7:00:00 AM
First name: Josh
Last name: Letcher
Organization: Lincoln County Commissioners
Title: Chairman
Comments: We received your notice that the KNF is proposing to complete over-snow motorized travel planningfor the Kootenai National Forest.As you are aware motorized over-snow users provide major revenues to businesses in Lincoln Countyduring a season, winter/early spring, when all other tourism and seasonal industry is limited, andrevue is down.Restricting motorized over-snow use is a major issue for Lincoln County. We understand that yourpaper ofrecord is the Missoulian, but realistically, it is not hardly distributed within Lincoln County.To my knowledge the Lincoln County Library is the only subscriber within Lincoln County. Many ofour constituents who will be affected by this limitation of Motorized Over-Snow Use are unaware ofthe proposal.The timing of this scoping process is negligent at best. July and August are the busiest months for ourcommunities. If the intent was to minimize participation in the scoping process, you nailed it.As the board of county commissioners, which is the county wide local government entity, we feel thisplan could drastically affect our communities. We do not feel that we were properly included in thepreliminary planning of this proposal per "Cooperating Agency" status.This proposal is large in area and information. We do not feel that 45 days is an adequate amount oftime for us to review and intelligently comment on a plan of this size that will have a long-lastingeffect on our local economy and resources for decades to come.As the Board of Lincoln County Commissioners, we officially make the following request:#1 We request a minimum of90 days of extension to the comment period.#2 We request all documentation pertaining to the designation of big game winter range,all documentation related to the designation of grizzly bear denning habitat, alldocumentation related to the designation of lynx habitat.#3 We request all documentation related to grizzly bear/snowmobile conflicts, alldocumentation related to all other forest user/grizzly bear conflicts, all documentationrelated to grizzly bear mortalities since the bear was listed as an endangered species.#4 We request all documentation and meeting minute notes, dates, and times from internalstaff meetings, and all meeting minute notes, dates, and times with NGO's and individuals(ie snowmobile clubs, MWA, AFR, etc.).#5 We request all documentation related to the site-specific planning analysis that createdall of all the 5a, 5b, and 5c 2015 KNF Forest Plan designated areas, all documentationdirecting the KNF to propose to limit over-snow vehicle travel, all documentation directingthe KNF to propose to create 2 separate over-snow season dates (ie 12/1-3/31 and 12/1-5/31).#6 We request ALL forest wide and individual district road/travel maps and motorizedover-snow maps from the years 1967, 1971, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 1987, 1995,2003,2010,2012,2015,2020,2023.#7 We request all documentation related to ALL motorized over-snow usage studies,including number of users, place of use, and date of use.