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First name: Josh

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Organization: Lincoln County Commissioners

Title: Chairman

Comments: We received your notice that the KNF is proposing to complete over-snow motorized travel planning for the Kootenai National Forest. As you are aware motorized over-snow users provide major revenues to businesses in Lincoln County during a season, winter/early spring, when all other tourism and seasonal industry is limited, and revenue is down. Restricting motorized over-snow use is a major issue for Lincoln County. We understand that your paper of record 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 of our constituents who will be affected by this limitation of Motorized Over-Snow Use are unaware of the proposal. The timing of this scoping process is negligent at best. July and August are the busiest months for our communities. 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 this plan could drastically affect our communities. We do not feel that we were properly included in the preliminary 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 of time for us to review and intelligently comment on a plan of this size that will have a long-lasting effect 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 of 90 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, all documentation related to the designation of lynx habitat. #3 We request all documentation related to grizzly bear/snowmobile conflicts, all documentation related to all other forest user/grizzly bear conflicts, all documentation related 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 internal staff 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 created all of all the 5a, 5b, and 5c 2015 KNF Forest Plan designated areas, all documentation directing the KNF to propose to limit over-snow vehicle travel, all documentation directing the 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 motorized over-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.