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First name: Natalie

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am an avid backcountry skier and trail runner in western Montana and northeastern Idaho. Backcountry skiing access in this region is challenging, with exceptionally long approach hikes and very few easy access points. Lolo Pass, and specifically the Crystal Amphitheater area is one of the BEST easy-access ski points in a 2 hour radius from my home in Missoula. Additionally, this area is my favorite spot for days when the avalanche ranger is high, due to the large area of safe, low-angle ski terrain. It is also my favorite spot on days with inclement weather and extreme low temperatures because you are never very far from the road. These features are unique in the region's backcountry ski areas. Please respect the human-powered backcountry skiing community and restrict motorized access into the Crystal Amphitheater on Lolo Pass, which is heavily used by the backcountry ski and snowboard community. I oppose FS 16675 as a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting. Please consider it as a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized setting to prevent snowmobile conflict and trespass into this beloved ski area. Just ONE snowmobile can track out an entire slope and ruin it for all of the non-motorized users. Motorized users have many other areas they can access and it is not ruining one of the only easy access backcountry ski areas in the region.

In addition to Crystal Amphitheater, there are many other proposed areas that are being considered for motorized access. I do not support opening up these areas to motorized access! I support the designation of a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized setting for our favorite local spots at Lolo Pass, Hoodoo Pass, Saint Regis Basin, Wisherd Ridge, Marshall Mountain, and Morrel Mountain. These popular areas provide opportunities for accessible human-powered backcountry skiing/riding day trips on public lands. Please please please keep these areas primitive.