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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 3/28/24

To: Amanda Milburn

Re: Lolo Forest Plan Revision

Amanda,

I submit my comments from the position of a winter recreationalist, specifically snowmobiling.

I would first like to point out that your designations for motorized and non-motorized is confusing. Under the Semi-Primitive category, you indicate what is non-motorized, and what is motorized. But under the primitive category, you indicate nothing. Someone that is not familiar with the nuances of FS lingo may look at that and think "primitive, sounds challenging. Great fun. Let's go." You need to spell out what the regulations are, and not assume everyone is in tune to the restrictions.

On your Appendix01_6-GA-MCF map MC-05, it appears that you have locked up what would be millions of acres in the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized category. Or else you got your color scheme all wrong. In particular, looking at the Hoodoo Pass area on the north end of the Great Burn restricted area, your map shows it is all closed up, but there are a few patches of the purple indicating it is Semi-Primitive motorized.

On the same map, Appendix01_6-GA-MCF map MC-05, on the south end of the Great Burn, you are indicating there is a corridor north of Schley Mountain in purple, but here again are indicating the area is closed up under the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized category.

I just spent way too long, several hours, trying to sort through all your maps to determine what exactly is being proposed, and am unable to come to any conclusions. It appears to me that you have a lot more work to do getting your maps sorted out.

The best that I can do is clarify that the Great Burn is NOT a designated wilderness, and probably never will be. It does hold some of the greatest high elevation snowmobile riding in the state, and it would only seem appropriate that because of the zero impact of snowmobiling that it be opened back up to riding.

Once your maps make more sense, I will be in a better position to provide viable comment. Despite reviewing the in depth analysis of all of the polygons and the associated maps, I have been unable find a concise summary of what any proposed changes are. Please advise.