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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to see snowmobile use only for grooming Nordic ski trails be permitted from the south side of Pattee Canyon up existing trails to Deer Creek road to up and past the saddle between Deer and Miller Creeks. There is an excellent loop ski trail opportunity to the east that uses existing roads. As such permitted grooming is allowed in the Rattlesnake. Also, more Nordic ski trail grooming should be considered for other higher elevation locations, like Gold Creek and Lolo Creek. Given the climate crises underway, many winter recreation activities will be curtailed at lower elevations.

I am very concerned about changes to the Rattlesnake Management Plan that are not publicized or little understood. The news I do read about is not good. Since the Lolo has so many new employees, I don't think you have an understanding of the importance of the Rattlesnake, Pattee Canyon, Blue Mountain, Lolo Creek or Rock Creek.

I am also shocked at the lack of trail maintenance of the 3 urban recreation areas surrounding Missoula. Including the Blue Mountain National Recreation Trail, which gets dutifully logged out by the Missoula Backcountry Horseman. But, I offer to you the idea that logging out a trail is NOT trail maintenance. Tread work, drainage control work, is trail maintenance. Logging out a trail is a user convenience in most cases. I understand you chase dollars to fund trail reconstruction in the upper end of the Welcome Creek Wilderness. Trails that see 2 dozen users a year. While trails in Pattee Canyon and Blue Mountain dump tons of sediment onto the parking lots, with filled in water bars, poor drainage. These urban trails see hundreds of users daily. There is a well used trail on Blue Mountain near the Blue Mountain Nature Trail, that uses an old logging road, that is not shown on the Blue Mtn. Recreation Area brochure/ map. The trail is within 100 yards and within sight, of Blue Mtn Rd #365 for all of its length.

Due to the demise of local news journalism in Missoula and the lack of journalistic coverage of all your meetings, I favor the extension of this comment period for an additional 60 days.