

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/31/2024 7:10:12 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi, I've lived in Missoula for 6 years now and been out west for my whole life (Wyoming, Montana, Washington, Oregon). I enjoy both non-motorized backcountry skiing as well as the occasional use of a snowmobile to facilitate access. I have been backcountry skiing many times over the past 6 years at Lolo pass, Wisherd Ridge, Marshall Mtn, and Morrel mountain. I am writing to support the position of the Montana Backcountry Alliance with regard to these and other precious areas near by.

To summarize, I support the designation of a Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized setting for Lolo Pass, Hoodoo Pass, Saint Regis Basin, Wisherd Ridge, Marshall Mountain, and Morrel Mountain. There aren't many nearby options for backcountry skiing day trips from Missoula that don't require snowmobiles for access, and these popular areas provide critical opportunities for accessible human-powered backcountry skiing/riding on public lands.

Please 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.

Please restrict motorized access into Saint Regis Basin. I oppose FS 18591 as a Semi-Primitive Motorized setting. Please consider it as a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized setting to lessen snowmobile conflict.

Please significantly reduce the excessive size of the motorized buffer along Morrell Mountain Lookout Road (FR 4365) to protect non-motorized access to this terrain near one of our very few backcountry yurts in this range.

Thank you for your reception to these comments and please consider them in your development of rules for the enjoyment of all.

Eric Fox