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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an avid backcountry snowmobiler I would like to submit my comments for consideration. I would hate to see any more area closed as I believe we are already fairly limited. I believe our impact is actually quite minimal to vegetation and the wildlife population (in my 20 years of riding I have seen maybe 5 animals. They just aren't out trying to navigate the areas of deep snow we are riding. Closing more areas would only concentrate the perceived impact. That said, I can appreciate the desire to recreate where there are no motorized activities. There are plenty of areas to do that, choose one of those. As a snowmobiler we only have certain areas we can go as it is. If someone wants to backcountry ski or snowshoe or any other thing in a popular area, great, we welcome you. I snowmobile in an area where all types of winter recreation happens and aside from the major roads/trails I rarely see anyone but other snowmobilers. We aren't looking to enjoy the same terrain as snowshoers, cross country skiers or even backcountry skiers. Our slopes are typically more shallow than a backcountry skier would choose and steeper than cross country or snowshoers would like. I don't think closing areas to any one group is the answer (historically it has been the problem, in fact) let's start looking to solutions to open areas to all and keep current wilderness areas intact. There is a better solution than excluding one group from an area because it suits another group.