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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Lolo Pass: Having used the various access points along Hwy 12 for nordic and backcountry skiing since 1996 it is obvious the recreational demand in this area has grown substantially. Lolo Pass visitor center's parking lot is often now full and areas that used to have less use are often full or as in the case of Lee Creek this winter - not plowed out. I would recommend a focus on increasing groomed access on the Montana side of Lolo Pass, specifically groomed nordic trails between Lee Creek and Lolo Pass and increased grooming for nordic skiing along the East Fork of Lolo Creek. Additionally, I think it is important to note the use of Lee Creek by skiers going out with their dogs. I would suggest keeping the Lee Creek side of the drainage open to skiing with dogs or provide a similar trailhead option at a different drainage with parking for skiers who wish to ski with their dogs. In recent years lower elevation trails, especially in the Grave's Creek area have been known to be used by trappers targeting wolves so keeping areas to recreate with dogs with little or no fear of trailside traps should be kept as a option.

Pattee / Dean Stone: Similar to Lolo Pass the Pattee Canyon / Dean Stone area has seen significant increase in nordic skier use and this usage should be both promoted and access increased specifically groomed access along the Dean Stone Ridge and Deer Creek drainage with increase parking opportunities along the Deer Creek drainage gate.