

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/30/2024 12:44:19 AM

First name: Ashley

Last name: Sherburne

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I work for Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance in East Glacier Park, and there are portions of the travel plan that I support and others that I am concerned about.

Generally speaking, I support the proposed closure of recommended wilderness to motorized use and mechanized travel, and the proposed use of trailheads or other clear geographical features rather than recommended wilderness boundaries to demarcate changes in allowable modes of travel, as these points are more intuitive for users and easier to enforce.

I also support the proposed winter closure of the route up Puzzle Creek in the Skyland Challenge snowmobile area as this will limit illegal riding in the Badger-Two Medicine and protect mountain goats and other wildlife. However, the new boundary should be near the Morrison Creek bridge where the warming hut and bathrooms are located as this will be a more effective, intuitive, and enforceable boundary.

Something I would like to see in the plan is to include adaptive closure mechanisms to allow late-season snowmobile areas to close early if minimum snow depths are reached (protects vegetation, water, and soils), or if grizzly bear sows with cubs are out of their dens in the area. I would also like to see the Forest Service conduct a finer-scale analysis of potential impacts to lynx and wolverines. The current forest-wide scale ignores potential loss of secure foraging areas, connectivity, and denning habitat.

Please do not open the Marias Pass zone of the Skyland Challenge snowmobile area all the way to the divide without a clear plan to prevent illegal riding in the Badger-Two Medicine. And please clarify in the proposed forest plan amendment that it is not acceptable for the Forest Service to use ground disturbing motorized or mechanized vehicles to conduct forest restoration work in recommended wilderness.

I greatly appreciate that you are taking the time to listen to the people who care about this region. Thank you for your time.