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First name: mike

Last name: jungers

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I am a responsible backcountry snowmobiler. Over the many years I have been riding, I have seen many areas shut down for no apparent reason other than hikers like their solitude. sure, wildlife is always the reason to blame. Safe winter range for habitat is always what we see as the main reason. When we snowmobile in the back country, we are on 5-8 feet of snow or more year after year. I have never seen so much as a single animal track in these areas during this season. There is no food unless they want to dig down 6 feet to find it. The wildlife migrate lower to the plains during the winter. This is always an invalid excuse by uneducated people who aim to restrict motorized travel everywhere they can. I have not looked into the numbers town by town that snowmobilers bring in to support each economy, but it is huge. Areas like Seely lake and cook city can attest. To some, it is their livelihood. As back country areas get shut down, the sustainability of these community's struggle. Let's not forget that we are on 5-8 feet of snow. no negative environmental impact felt. If anything, the snowpack is helped by slowing the spring melt and runoff. In fact, any time I do hike in these areas, I prefer a snowmobile trail so I do not sink to my neck while walking. yes, I could bring snowshoes but that is beside the point. I challenge anyone to give me a viable reason why backcountry snowmobiling is harmful to our habitat. And don't give me the emissions studies from years ago in Yellowstone. Two stroke snowmobiles have come a long way in reducing emissions with the current engine designs. Most if not all modern sleds do not even smoke anymore. One last thing, there are areas in the back country that we only see in the winter. I have a disabled son who loves seeing the beauty of our great outdoors. Should he hike in? maybe wheelchair in? no, not possible. a Snowmobile or other motorized means is his only chance to get to some of these areas. I ask everyone to reconsider their facts and bias. We should not shut out an entire class of users. We only need to ensure every user of our forests are responsible. As time goes on, I have seen more and not less respect for our forests. I think in part it is because we all hold each other responsible. Thank you for considering my position on keeping the back country open to snowmobilers.

Mike A. Jungers