

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/6/2024 2:03:23 AM

First name: Mark

Last name: Dudrow

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Regarding winter over snow travel in NF.

We back country ski in the San Juans west of Antonito, especially at La Manga Pass/Spruce Hole and at the Chama chili race course. I have been skiing in that area for more than 30 years....I used to ski at Trujillo meadows but the experience had been spoiled by the motorized vehicles: which I understand- it is a great place for that! I believe that there should be a place for people to play with machines and understand that it is good for certain sectors of the local economy....

Skiing is also good for sectors of the local economy as demonstrated by the success of the Chama Chili Race and businesses like the Spruce Hole Yurt.

While skiers do not impact the experience of motorized vehicles very much , the opposite is not true: the noise and exhaust are not things most skiers want to be around - additionally the tracking of snow spoils the skiing for days or even weeks afterward...as the size, volume and capabilities of snow machines continues to increase these issues are becoming more pronounced for skiing community. there is a lot of room out there in the mountains - room for everyone...especially in the winter when there are no cattle! my experience has been that the vast majority of motorized folks are respectful of the current voluntary use boundaries ( which are generous for motoring) in recent years the spruce hole area is seeing more encroachment.

I would like to see the current designated areas for unmotorized travel become more official with enforcement While at the same time encouraging motorized recreation at the more popular places like Trujillo Meadows. It is essential to designate sufficient areas for non motorized recreation so that we all have a place to enjoy what winter in the mountains has to offer!

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments