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Comments: The presentation of the Rio Grande National Forest Over Snow Travel Management Project came to the attention of the NM Cross Country Ski Club located in Albuquerque via our Facebook website with very short notice, about 18 hours ago via Brittany Leffel of the Winter Wildlands Alliance and our club. It appears that no zoom platform to attend is available for either the Alamosa or Antonito meetings. It seems that only the June 6 meeting has capability to attend via zoom. This is very short notice.

Concern is that several special yurts are located in the area in question and heavily used by cross country skiers and snowshoers in the winter months. Overnight stays at these locations include day long skiing in the area to view wildlife, winter scenery and quiet. The allowance and opening up of 75% of the Rio Grande National Forest to snowmobile use will impact this type of outdoor activity and the pristine environment.

Request that USFS address the following areas likely to be impacted by this increase of snowmobile traffic:

1. increased level of noise;
2. impact on wildlife activity and stress levels affecting reproduction, safety and health;
3. Is there a plan to implement a lottery system with numbers limited and a daily fee permitting system? How many snowmobiles per day and what would the daily fee be per snowmobile? Would a Search & Rescue fee be included in the permitting?
4. How would the Forest Service address regulate this very large area? What hours of usage? Who would regulate that snowmobiles be off forest land by a certain time?
5. Where would trailers carrying snowmobiles and vehicles carrying non-motorized users (skiers, etc) be allowed to park safely away from the highway and oncoming snowplows? Which government entity would perform the upkeep and plowing of these pullouts?
6. Environmental impact?
7. Will any meetings be held in Albuquerque, Santa Fe or Los Alamos?