Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/9/2024 5:03:22 PM First name: Eric Last name: Polczynski Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a regular backcountry skier in the Rio Grande National Forest I frequently see, hear and smell the effects of motorized travel over snow at Wolf Creek Pass. I feel that snowmobiles should be limited to forest roads and adjacent open meadows where they do not run over and mutilate the small trees. Snowmobiles go so much faster and further and have a much larger impact than human powdered recreation. There needs to be areas preserved from motorized travel to enable an enjoyable experience for non-motorized recreation. Motorized travel seems to be growing so fast that it is overtaking all available area and spilling further and further to any and every location. Rules must be enacted to prevent further spoiling of our National Forest. The steeper, treed areas adjacent to wilderness should definitely be off limits to motorized use. Some specific examples of areas that should be protected from motorized travel are the Lobo Overlook area, Fall Creek area and Spruce Hole at La Manga Pass. Motorized travel should be limited to existing roads or banned altogether in these locations. In genetal, it seems that snowmobiles have taken over the South side of the highway at Wolf Creek Pass, at a minimum they should be banned from travel off an established road on the North side of the highway there. If common sense boundaries are established and enforced we can all have an enjoyable winter recreational experience. Thank you for hearing my concerns.