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Comments: Hello,

Thank you for opening the winter snow travel Plan for the Rio Grande NF to the public. I am a frequent user of Lobo and Big Meadows for backcountry and Nordic skiing. I believe it is imperative to share all public lands with every user group in a way that is safe, equitable, and environmentally friendly .

There have been several instances while Nordic skiing in Big Meadows that I have either witnessed or been a part of ski/snowmobile conflicts. Safety is a huge concern when discussing shared use in a specific are. I believe it is imperative to restrict snowmobile travel in the areas that have historically been used for Nordic skiing. The Nordic user group is very large, yet has very little acreage available for use as compared to the snowmobile user group. Reserving this space for safe travel will reduce the potential for collision and injury.

I also believe reserving the Lobo area outside of the main road is incredibly important for the user experience and safety of the backcountry skier community. Lobo is the safest and most easily accessible area for back country ski travel on the pass. Allowing snowmobiles free access over this acreage will present a huge safety concern and will greatly diminish the experience of ski travel in this area. The snowmobile user group has access to an enormous swath of land. Keeping these relatively small portions of land reserves for the ski community is not only fair, but safer for the community.