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Comments: On behalf of the San Juan Outdoor Club, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed over snow travel management plan. The club is a 501(c)(3) with over 200 members.

The club does a number of trips every winter to the Lobo area, mostly for snowshoe trips. We especially enjoy the Lobo area since it is designated for non-motorized use only and we strongly encourage you to maintain this designation. We would note that this area is also popular with families for sledding as well as by cross-country and back-country skiers, all of whom much appreciate that the area is reserved for non-motorized use as well. The parking lot is often quite full, particularly on weekends.

The club also does snowshoe outings on the south side of 160 from Wolf Creek Pass. We understand that snowmobiles are allowed here. To date we have not had any issues with mutually sharing this area.

Another area that the club enjoys trips to in the winter is the Big Meadows area. While CR-410 probably needs to continue being multi-use, the area south of the road into the campground has been groomed for use by cross-country skiers and we also enjoy ski outings there. Frankly, if snowmobiles are using this area, it would probably not be a place we would continue taking club members into. We strongly encourage the designation of this area to be for non-motorized travel only.

Your plan proposes a minimum of 12 inches depth for OSV travel and 18 inches depth for snow cat grooming. While this may be an adequate number, these are values taken from studies outside of Colorado and, as such, may not be appropriate. We would encourage you to study what the appropriate snow depth needs to be in order to protect the resource here.

We note there are no areas designated and managed as wildlife winter range in your plan. We believe that having some areas set aside are important to protect the well-being of herds and to protect other sensitive areas. We would suggest this is a topic that should be addressed in the next phase.

We appreciate your efforts to date on this and thank you again for the opportunity to comment.