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First name: Kathy

Last name: Keyes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a Nordic skier and snowshoer. I love to ski up to Lobo Point and in the surrounds on the north side of Wolf Creek Pass. I also ski/snowshoe the trail to Big Meadows and the area surrounding the reservoir. Another favorite is back country skiing to the Pass Creek Yurt and touring the surrounding area east of Wolf Creek Ski Area. I value the beauty, peace, quiet and alternating treed and open spaces. It is so special to spy wildlife from afar! Quiet trails and forest of course are imperative for our health and peace of mind, and for those special moments of witnessing wildlife. Warmer winters are making these areas even more important as Nordic users go higher to access snow throughout the shortening winter months.

I strongly desire to see this plan comply with the Over-Snow Vehicle Rule's "closed unless designated open" framework. In my experience, increased winter recreation during and post COVID has brought more motorized use. Their expanding presence compromises views, peace and quiet, and opportunities for wildlife viewing. While the focus of the current iteration of the plan is on OSV use, it is important to designate areas for human powered travel as well.

While Nordic users will not be filling their OSV's tanks with gas, their contributions to the travel economy are equally as valuable. They bring tax dollars while not taxing the forest's environment - be it air quality, the quietude, surface impact, or effects on wildlife.

I support the Forest Service multiple use mandate and encourage you to ensure that human powered users are given the opportunity for unimpeded recreation in the Rio Grand NF.