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Comments: RGNF should look to Grand Mesa (Uncompahgre) and Ketchum Idaho (Blaine County Recreation District) for examples of how to operate snowmobile and nordic skiing programs successfully and in a way that avoids most user-conflicts. BCRD operates largely on Sawtooth N.R.A. lands and has a fantastic working relationship with the Forest Service. What they have created is a huge draw for tourism and an asset to the entire community, both recreationally and economically.

Rio Grande should open far more terrain to nordic skiing. If there is an entity or club to provide grooming, people will ski 10 and 20 miles per outing, no problem to do this on skate skis. There ought to be more venues that are non-motorized, with more miles of skiable terrain. No club wants to provide grooming if just one snowmobile could ride over it, ruining the conditions in mere seconds.

The snowmobile community is well-funded by the state, that's why their voices seem the loudest. Your plans seem to indicate they will get the lion's share of suitable terrain. That basically chases out the quiet recreationists. RGNF has the opportunity to do something more progressive, and also better for the environment and the animals that live in snow country. Everyone should be able to have a place to have fun! The motorized crowd too. But we all need separate spaces. Lobo Overlook should be emphasized as 100% nonmotorized, for backcountry skiers. That seems to be working well on a voluntary basis (I was on the working group in the late 90s for the Wolf Creek Pass project), and, especially due to the limited suitable terrain for machines, plus the wilderness boundary, let's just keep it this way.