

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/11/2024 3:32:22 PM

First name: Leslie

Last name: Cole

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I moved to Pagosa Springs because of the abundant trails and access to public land in the surrounding areas. My husband and I enjoy Nordic and back country ski touring on trails on both sides of Wolf Creek Pass, particularly near Lobo Peak and in the area surrounding Pass Creek Yurt. I ski for exercise, fresh air, and to enjoy the solitude, beauty, and peace of the winter forest. If motorized users are on the same trails as I am, the noise and smell effectively ruins the experience for me. If a motorized user has already been on the trail, the deep tracks carved by OSVs destroy the nordic tracks and render it useless for cross-country skiers.

I appreciate the winter travel planning process that is underway. However, I am concerned to see that the current proposal has designated almost all of the non-wilderness forest service land as open to OSV use. To protect winter wildlife habitat and minimize user conflicts, there should be specific areas open for OSV use and separate (and ample) areas for non motorized activities. Designated OSV boundaries should take into account topographic features such as plowed roads and ridge lines, for users' safety and to minimize the impacts on other public land users and wildlife. The plan should also lay out how it will be enforced. And finally, there should be adequate minimum snow depths for winter travel that take into account lighter snow years in the future due to global warming.

I am interested in staying informed as the planning process continues.