

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/11/2024 3:56:47 PM

First name: Rick

Last name: Schnaderbeck

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been skiing and grooming Nordic trails in the SLV and Rio Grande Forest since the late 1980s. I usually am training for a Nordic ski marathon so obviously that involves lots of time and miles on FS trails and roads. The snowmobile use of these areas has skyrocketed lately. I no longer ski on the Pass Creek road and the Big Meadows road. The snowmobilers have changed as have the machines. Earlier days we would stop and visit/check on each other. Lately I have had machines go by at very high speeds and extremely close. Not good!!! Seems like now we have a considerable percentage of snowmobilers that are not local and are considerably more reckless acting than locals. Just a matter of time before someone gets hurt. So sad to hear of a few rogue snowmobilers tearing up the Big Meadow Campground grooming. That's a perfect place for Nordic skiers and since it's not a "through route" it's perfect place for Nordic. Perhaps better signage and some cameras. Some more groomed Nordic trails in the Creede area would be nice. Especially in isolated places like Seepage Lake- an area that doesn't get much snowmobile use but has excellent topography for Nordic. And most importantly the South Fork Nordic Trail is proving to be a perfect place for Nordic skiers. Although I am a bit biased as Steve Brigham and myself are co presidents.

I know you will have a tough time balancing out all the public use so do your best and don't forget about the Nordic trail and backcountry skiers. Worried that someone will get hit/killed. It's a definite threat these days.