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Comments: I have been visiting RGNF for over 40 years, with many cross country ski trips around the Cumbres and La Manga Pass areas as well as hiking and backpacking In South San Juan, Weminuche and La Garita wilderness areas. Since this is a comment on over snow travel management, I will confine my comments to winter. As mentioned I have been skiing in the Cumbres area for well over 40 years and have stayed at the five yurts in the area numerous times. I have seen a significant increase of snow mobile travel during this time. I know that the only snow mobile free area is where they have the annual cross country ski race and then there is a voluntary separation around Neff, Grouse Creek and Spruce Hole. The voluntary separation is not working and in fact is working less and less as time goes on. At Neff, it used to be that snowmobiles ignored the voluntary separation on the beginning road but did not go beyond the gate that accesses the upper road, yurt and Neff Mt. This changed about 8 years ago and now they will simply go around and ride right up to the top of Neff. The last time I rented the Neff Mt yurt, snowmobiles drove right past the yurt, and drove around the entire area before riding back down the mountain. I do not consider ever going to this yurt anymore. I'm afraid the same is happening at Grouse and Spruce. At Grouse, it used to be that snowmobiles would ride around the bottom area of the trail to the yurt but would not go past the bottom of the first hill. This changed 3 years ago and now there are tracks nearly to the yurt. This past January I stayed at Spruce Hole yurt and noted a snowmobile track coming up from the road and continuing over the trail to the yurt. It is only a matter of time before they drive all over these areas also. I haven't even mentioned the Trujillo Meadow-Flat Mt, yurt areas in the Cumbres Pass area. With a large parking area, easy access to the road and it without a voluntary separation, I don't need to speak about how overrun this area is.

In conclusion, I enjoy cross country skiing for the good exercise, the quiet solitude and the winter experience of being in nature. This is severely compromised with this area being overrun with snowmobile traffic. It can also be dangerous for a skier to go in and out of the deep snowmobile tracks when going steeply downhill. This can be one of the premier backcountry ski areas in the U.S. I believe there is plenty of areas not mentioned that snowmobilers can enjoy their winter recreation. Please allow us places where we can enjoy ours.

Thank you.