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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a current member of the Pagosa Nordic Club and would like there to be allocated trails for non-motorized travel for people to enjoy the outdoors safely and peacefully.

This is a safety concern at hand. People that are snow shoeing and cross country skiing should be allowed to enjoy designated trails without the worry of a snowmobile accident to them or their dogs. This past winter, I was cross country skiing at Big Meadows and was almost struck by a snowmobile rounding a corner at high speeds. Aside from a nearly fatal collision it was astounding how many snowmobiles were on Big Meadows lake when the ice was deemed dangerously thin. Thin enough to where I myself on cross country skis was staying off of it at the time.

With our winters potentially getting warmer every season it is not far fetched to state that we all will be driving up the mountain to partake in winter activities as snow counts dwindle at lower elevation. Our children have groups that take them out snow shoeing and cross country skiing every season with the schools. If we do not designate these safe areas for them to use these programs are at a huge risk of dying out.

Cardiovascular disease is the number 1 killer in the United States. Allowing motorized sports to have access to our trails is not only dangerous us but it is potentially putting a healthy activity in jeopardy while giving more access to a non physical activity.

Our cross country club has almost 400 members plus plenty of users who use the trails without attaining membership every year. The snowmobile club has 35 members. Please do something for the locals by granting trails for non-motorized activity.

Finding peace in these trails gives me my sanity almost every evening of the winter to go back to work the next day and give 100% to my community while I clean their teeth and improve their oral health. I am not a downhill skier, and this peace and safety on the trails is what myself and many others need every winter. Please keep us and our sport safe.