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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Hello,

As a local motorized and non-motorized user, I appreciate many of the concerns from both user groups. In recent years the increase in motorized use of the forest, particularly wolf creek pass, has had a huge impact. I would like the following considered regarding managing use appropriately:

1. non motorized users should be given some accessible non-wilderness options. The lobo side of wolf creek for example is beloved and heavily used by non motorized folks and should remain so as the rest of accessible options here are motorized and/or special use permitted. Suggested areas: Big meadows above the Y, Lobo (N of 160), a designated cross country ski system somewhere on Cumbres/La Manga, an option for non motorized road accessed terrain on poncha & north pass (usually not as affected by motorized usage)
2. Motorized traffic, specifically private snowmobiles often encroach on the ski area. Signage is poor and there are some user conflicts at the use permit area. A well marked buffer zone and clear signage at the parking area would likely help this
3. A larger buffer around the pass creek yurt area would enhance the backcountry experience for users. It doesn't need to be big but there has been significant encroachment in recent years.
4. Please consider staffing and funding a snow ranger position. There is a clear need for enforcement and education on the pass (La Manga / Cumbres as well). Incidents are happening with more frequency and users are unfamiliar with avalanche conditions. Signage is poor and there is very little agency presence, outreach, education, liaison, and enforcement.
5. Consider better infrastructure (parking/toilet facilities) for motorized users. Maybe designated sno park or snow play areas, winter motorized trailheads could be developed.
6. Big meadows trail needs to remain mixed use to the lake for ice fishing. This is a tradition for many local folks. Popular ice fishing locations should have motorized access for users. Signage and enforcement could mitigate conflicts.
7. Some entire drainages should be protected for wildlife and/or noise pollution. These should be signed well. These can be mostly roadless areas but need to be frequent enough that wildlife have an option. I don't think this is currently a huge issue but will become so as users continue to increase.
8. Consider better parking and facilities for motorized users at wolf creek pass, Tucker ponds, and park creek. It gets very congested and trashed.

Thank you for the consideration

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