

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/13/2024 5:27:17 PM

First name: Jaclyn

Last name: Bramwell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Our names are Jaclyn & Forest Bramwell. We own and operate Snow Country Snowmobile Tours & Third Generation Outfitters, LLC on the San Juan National Forest in Pagosa Springs, CO. Forest is a 5th generation native to the area. His ancestors came over Elwood pass in covered wagons and were the original loggers for the Rio Grande and San Juan National Forest. Floyd Bramwell (Forest's grandfather) was the first outfitter in the area packing in hunters and taking tourists on horseback rides. Our family has been in the tourist business our whole lives and have seen many changes to the Forest over the years. Tourism sustains our community's economy and without the use of groomed snowmobile trails we could not get novice riders into the backcountry.

Wolf Creek Pass has become a popular area to recreate for not just snowmobilers, but also cross-country skiers, snowshoers & fat bikers. We are concerned to see ANY motorized opportunities on the Rio Grande side closed as even more pressure and people will be concentrated to Wolf Creek Pass. It is our mission to educate our tour guest and the public using the winter trails of the importance of being respectful riders, sharing the trails with others and registering your snowmobile so that the required funding can go back into the Colorado Parks and Wildlife continuing to keep trails maintained and groomed for all winter enthusiasts.

Snow Country Snowmobile Tours also operates on the Plum Taw and Mill Creek winter trails. As we do not see ANY wildlife on our Wolf Creek Pass high elevation trails 11,000ft-12,000ft. Plum Taw and Mill Creek being lower elevation trails around 9,000ft we do often see Elk, Deer, Mountain Lions and Bob cats. Our tours cruise past these animals leaving them undisturbed. As we pass by, they do not spook, but simply carry on as we found them. We oppose no threat, and our presence is known way in advance with low noise levels that our 4-stroke engines make. Alerting them early to our presence keeps them stress-free unlike in nature when a predator stalks its prey surprising them in a life-threatening situation. We love the opportunity for our guests to take pictures and coexist with nature as we go by without bothering them. Snowmobiles do very little damage to the forest and do not disturb the wildlife. It would be a shame to close ANY motorized area on the Rio Grande National Forest as there is no conflict or need for change.

With our company and native roots here, we are out on the winter trails almost every day. We see the daily use by ALL winter enthusiasts motorized and non-motorized and know that it would be unwise to make any changes to the motorized areas on the Rio Grande National Forest. People who only recreate on the weekends making assumptions about the wildlife being disturbed and the need to shrink approved motorized areas are not seeing the truthful numbers or acknowledging the lack of funding there will be to preserve winter usage in the National Forest.