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Organization: Wolf Creek Trailblazers Snowmobile Club

Title: President

Comments: The Wolf Creek Trailblazers (Pagosa Spring's local Snowmobile Club) would like to comment on the Over the Snow Travel Proposal of the Rio Grande National Forest. Our club has been serving winter outdoor enthusiasts for two decades. The two primary objectives of our club are to preserve and promote the sport of snowmobiling in our area through responsible trail development and management. Our club has a special use permit with the San Juan National Forest Service to groom winter trails. The WCTB snowcat is funded by the Colorado Snowmobile Association & Colorado Parks and Wildlife. We are responsible for grooming 158 miles of San Juan National Forest roads and cross-country trails within Archuleta County, Colorado. Although it is mostly snowmobilers out on the trails, we also get many cross-country skiers, fat bike riders, dog sledders and snowshoers as well. Our grooming efforts are greatly appreciated by our community members that are winter outdoor enthusiasts. With the snowmobiling industry booming due to Covid-19, we had an enormous influx of people wanting to get out of the house and go enjoy the trails. Freshly groomed trails allow locals and visitors to enjoy their favorite winter activities.

Our club's mission is to spread the word about the importance of registering snowmobiles to ride in the National Forest. This funding goes back to Colorado Parks and Wildlife who team up with The Colorado Snowmobile Association sponsoring trail grooming efforts for every division in the state of Colorado. Grooming equipment, funds, grants, snow cats, avalanche beacon checkpoints and more are funded back into communities through this wonderful system. With these funds local clubs can groom and maintain winter trails providing opportunities for all motorized AND non-motorized to enjoy.

The Wolf Creek Trailblazers also hosts monthly meetings to instill in our members the significance of being respectful to the public and others while out riding snowmobiles. ALL snowmobiling areas are mixed used in the National Forest meaning the non-motorized users have the entirety of the whole national Forest.

With little-to-none conflict in the current motorized areas in the Rio Grande National Forest makes us ponder why ANY motorized opportunities would be shut down in this proposal. Without snowmobiling in the National Forest there will be no funding to keep ALL winter recreators doing what we love in the wintertime.