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Comments: My biggest concern is making sure the the Langohr forest service roads are open for cross country skiing every winter. Forest Roads 6230, 6231, 6233, and 6235 and all their branches need to be open for skiing from December 1 to March 31. My friends and I ski these roads once or twice a week all winter.

An alternative to keeping the Langohr roads open, would be to discontinue all grooming of Hyalite Basin ski trails so that they can be used by cross country skiers. Cross-country skis are wider than set tracks and cannot gain purchase on the icy skate ski lanes.

The 2006 Travel Management Plan marginalized cross-country skiers even though they had actively participated in the public comment opportunities. Before the Travel Plan, there were no areas set aside for cross-country skiers separate from snowmobiles. The preferred alternative of the Plan designated all of the Hyalite Basin as non-motorized in winter, but the Forest Supervisor changed the alternative at the last minute, without public input, to allow snowmobiles north of Moser Rd. . The record of decision (p.51) states, "Some of the ski trails will be groomed on an occasional basis." However, most ski trails are groomed regularly. Langohr area is the only place without groomed trails where a skier can find enough terrain for a full day of skiing. (North side of Lick Creek is heavily used by downhill skiers who beat the surface flat and icy and unsuitable for cross-country skis.)

In general, I disagree with the concept of forest thinning to prevent wildfire for several reasons. Personal experience with the Millie Fire of 2012 in the Stormcastle Creek drainage showed that the fire burned completely through regrowing pine trees in old clearcuts right up to the edge of unlogged old growth forest (at the bottom of the trail switchbacks up to the alpine basin.) The fire stopped at the old growth forest of its own accord, not because of fire fighting. Research shows that thinning the forest canopy allows the sun to reach the forest floor and dry it out. There is also greater wind penetration into a thinned canopy. Clearing the underbrush and prescribed burning on the forest floor may be effective in preventing fires but thinning large trees is counter productive.

Creating a "sterile" forest also displaces birds and wildlife. I have encountered a good number of wild mammals and birds and their sign in this area despite the large human presence and roads. The thinning and burning done at the north end of 6231 in the past 2 years has left an unsightly mess that still contains much fine fuels.

Two especially beneficial actions mentioned in the scoping document are the preservation of "long-lived, fire-resistant species such as Douglas-fir, and large diameter trees " and the removal of old and new temporary roads. Much of the area has been clearcut in the past, but there are a few huge old douglas fire trees in several locations, especially near the ridge tops that should be protected from cutting. There are presently too many open side roads where careless campers stay for long periods illegally and bring in trash and fire bullets into trees and build huge fire rings. It is important that existing and new temporary side roads be obliterated.