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Comments: As snowmobilers, we have a special interest in the project. In general, we are in support of timber harvest, thinning of the forest, clearing of underbrush, and improving roads and access. This is good for having a healthy forest, and is good for recreation of all user groups.

According to the Recreation Report, 48% of this project is in designated wilderness. Nearly half of this project is set aside for non-motorized, non-wheeled user groups, leaving only 52% to be shared between wheeled non-moto and motorized groups. Only 1% is designated as semi-primitive motorized. This is grossly inadequate for equal access and opportunity for all recreationalists, especially those that require motorized access in order to recreate in the backcountry (physical disabilities, age, health, etc..).

Though this work is being done during non-winter months, the impacts of this project will directly impact winter users and has the potential to provide a better balance for access for every user. With the remaining 52% that is not designated wilderness, equal access would require that 26% percent be wheeled non-motorized, and 26% be motorized, a substantial improvement from 1%, and the appropriate thing to do in order to align with Congress's intent when they created National Forests, etc...

We would like to see this project leave spaces for staging and access when the project is complete. Locations where project heavy equipment needs to be staged has the opportunity to be left for motorized recreationalists to access after the project is complete. Roads that are improved have the potential to improve access to staging areas, as well as opportunity for OSV access to a wide variety of potential riding areas that can be accessed by inexperienced riders new to the sport, children and seniors who need easier access, and for users who have physical disabilities. Snowmobiling has also been used as therapy treatment for those with social emotional challenges, including PTSD for U.S. Veterans and for women and minorities recovering from trauma.

Please take these suggestions into serious consideration as an opportunity to leverage resources that will amplify the positive impacts of this projects for access to resources and recreation.

Thank you.

Dr. Todd M. Wold