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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, my name is Logan. I am an avid skier that loves backcountry skiing. I started exploring the backcountry 5 years ago to get away from the crowds at the local ski resorts. This lead me into snowmobiling as a means to access bigger and steeper terrain. I fully understand that cross country skiers love their hobby and the solitude it brings. I also understand that while skiing along, the sound of a passing snowmobile most likely sounds like they are traveling at 80mph. The majority of snowmobilers are friendly and slow down to speeds of around 15-20 mph while passing skiers or pedestrians. Unfortunately, the design of sleds makes it sound like we are going 80. It is just how they work.

Skiers have their areas they can cover in one day, everyone loves a good powder run, but honestly, a skier cannot ski in one day to where we actually ride. So besides the occasional passing of a group of sleds, how much do snowmobiles actually effect the skiers accessible terrain?

Closing the brown areas seems like a waste of time to me, snowmobiles are NOT ridden in less than 12" of snow. Exposed rocks, branches and other obstacles make it dangerous to sleds and equipment to travel in such condition, so we don't do it anyways.

For the wilderness areas, sorry if we have traveled through them, but it can be very difficult to dictate which areas are where. If these are marked more properly and effectively, I will personally say I will not travel through them. I love the mountains just as much as everyone else. I don't want to destroy it either.

Snowmobiles also pay registration to operate our sleds legally. This money goes towards maintenance of these roads and trails. This should also give us equal rights to access the mountains. (If not more!)

Last point, we often come across fallen trees blocking roads which we must remove, sometimes using our sleds to haul them off to the side if the tree is large. We do our part in maintaining trails. Also, we come across stranded or lost skiers/hikers from time to time and make sure they get the help needed. This is sort of like having extra forest service, without having add us in the payroll.