



September 2, 2022

RE: Kaniksu Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Project August 2022 Proposed Action - Comments

To Whom It May Concern,

Northern Lights, Inc. (NLI) is an electric utility provider in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana. NLI has a Special Use Permit for power lines within the Idaho Panhandle National Forests and a number of these permitted power lines are within proposed restricted over-snow travel areas.

In review of the proposed action, on page 2 of the proposed action document it states as one of the uses exempt:

"Over-snow vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulations (such as previously granted easements or permits issued to private landowners to access private property across Nation Forest System lands)."

Within NLI's Special Use Permit, over-snow vehicle use is not specifically addressed. NLI is requesting that the exemptions are more specifically defined to allow a utility with a Special Use Permit to use over-snow vehicles at any time within a designated right-of-way.

If you have any questions, please contact me at kristin.mettke@nli.coop or 208-263-5141.

Sincerely,

Kristin Mettke
Engineering & Operations Manager for Northern Light Inc.