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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Bear Basin Closure

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing this letter in regards to the Granite Goose Landscape Restoration Project. I have been a near daily user in some form or other of this region. I want to address the purpose and need specifically of the Bear Basin closure. As stated in the scoping document conflict between user groups has increased causing detrimental impacts. I agree that this should be addressed, but would like to offer an alternative proposed action to each purpose and need by offering an adjusted boundary. I have attached an edited clip of the proposed closure for the Bear Basin area. I would like to address Management area 6 Objective 0649 and 0641, while also addressing the desire to create or improve effective road and trail signs. It is my belief that the overwhelming majority of conflicts in the Bear Basin area between ski/snowshoers and snowmobiles is due to the lack of signage and getting disorientated (accidental incursions). We all can agree that these two groups should not share the same trail system as people could and will be injured. The proposed boundary would do very little to stop the accidental incursions as the signage and boundaries would be near impossible to effectively mark. We will continue to have motorized users accidentally riding through the trees and find themselves on a groomed trail. Those groomed trails also look very similar to groomed snowmobile trails and we will continue to have conflict between user groups. I would submit redrawing the closure boundary to parallel groomed snowmobile trails so the closure can be effectively signed. I would also ask the McCall Snowmobile Club to help maintain the signs and help enforce through peer pressure to honor the closure. This system works very well along the Brundage Closure. The new boundary should be Hwy 55 to the West Side Parking area, Trail P (snowmobile groomed trail), RD 452, Rd 451, and the Forest Boundary between rd 451 and Hwy 55. I attached an edited map. Rd 452[[, Groomed trail P, and RD 451 should remain open to motorized use. Rd 451 is utilized by the residents on Old Brundage Road to access the snowmobile trails and should remain open to residents. This defined boundary would be easy to post and maintain signage and would mitigate the vast majority of accidental incursions, which is the purpose of this closure.

I enjoyed speaking with Emily during the meeting last week. I was surprised how many people were not aware that the Bear Basin area was not currently closed to motorized use. After speaking with fellow skiers and motorized users I feel like most would agree that this closure should happen.

ATTACHMENTS

Map - 89A77C89-C59F-4424-B2EB-477C8CDF9321.jpeg

Map - F27DA66B-67B2-49B6-9FA9-B5AD6E3BCF18.jpeg