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Comments:

I do not support the closure of further areas in the Custer Gallatin Forest, especially for sports that have been in use years before the Gallatin County became popular to the people who push to close land use. I have gone up Buck Creek for years with my family on dirt bikes, snowmobiles, and fourwheelers. My family and friends have all been respectful to the land, wildlife, and to others using the access. This is the only way my father, who is an amputee, is able to access the mountains. Closing these areas to motorized sports is preventing him and other people with the same physical challenges from the enjoying the mountains he has been using for the past 18 years. There have already been several closures in the Gallatin County for the purpose of preserving wilderness that have impacted motorized use. This is being pushed mainly by people who have not lived here long, who perhaps have not spent much time in the mountains, and who probably have never been any of the motorized vehicles they are trying to ban use to. Comments I have heard from people who are supporting the closure are that they would not step into the mountains if it meant helping the animals and they are concerned that snowmobiling in the winter could affect the grizzly bears (she was not aware of hibernation). These are not informed voters. Having been in the Valley for 18 years, and being a motorized user along with being an avid hiker, fisher, and skier, I believe that balance can be maintained among all users. Considering the limits and closures that have been implemented already, to further close areas in Portal Creek, Carrot Basin, Buck Creek, and the other areas listed would not support the spirit of balance. To support one view completely and not consider the other side is ignorant no matter what side you are voting for.