

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

1400 So. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715



December 2, 1996

TO: Governor's Office, Glenn Marx, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office
Parks Division
Fisheries Division
Wildlife Division
Lands Section
Design & Construction Bureau
Legal Unit

FWP Commissioners

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624

Beaverhead County Commissioners, Courthouse, Dillon, MT 59725

Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

Ladies and Gentlemen: The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Beaverhead Snowriders Snowmobile Club's groomed snowmobile trails, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted from December 2 through 5 p.m., December 31, 1996. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at 994-4042. All comments should be sent to the FWP office at 1400 S. 19th Avenue, Bozeman, Montana 59715

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Lewis
Regional Supervisor

**BEAVERHEAD SNOWRIDERS
SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

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Montana Snowmobile Grant Program PEIS REVIEW PROCESS

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action** Award the Beaverhead Snowriders trail system a grant to continue grooming the existing trails and roads designated as snowmobile use.

2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action** State of Montana statutes that relate to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Chapter 2, Part 1 statutes relating to Recreation: MCA 23-2-101, and Part 6 statutes relating to snowmobiling: MCA 23-2-106 to 23-2-656. State of Montana statutes that relate to Montana Environmental Policy Act: MCA 75-1-101 to 75-1-1112.

3. **Name of Project** Beaverhead Snowriders Trail System.

4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**
Beaverhead Snowriders, P.O. Box 423, Dillon, MT, 59729

5. **If Applicable: Estimated Construction/Commencement Date** Trail Grooming, December 1 through March 31
Estimated Completion Date: Ongoing
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): Ongoing

6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**
Madison County - T11S, & T12S; R1W, & R2W
Beaverhead National Forest, Dillon Ranger District

7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently: Groomed trail located on approximately (75) miles of existing roads and trails.**

(a) Developed: residential <u>0</u> acres industrial <u>0</u> acres	(d) Floodplain <u>0</u> acres
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation <u>0</u> acres	(e) Productive: irrigated cropland <u>0</u> acres dry cropland <u>0</u> acres forestry <u>0</u> acres rangeland <u>0</u> acres other <u>0</u> acres
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas <u>0</u> acres	

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 ½" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

(SEE ATTACHED)

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

The proposed action is to award a Montana State Snowmobile Program Grant to the Beaverhead Snowriders Snowmobile Club, for the purpose of grooming the existing groomed trail system, identified on the attached map.

This document is tied to the Montana Snowmobile Grant Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), of which Alternative Three was selected and states: "the continuation of the current program with modifications." These modifications require an environmental review document be prepared by FWP for each grant application, unless projects are classified as categorical exclusions.

This environmental assessment addresses only the snowmobile trails located on lands of the Beaverhead National Forest, Dillon Ranger District.

A Multi-Party Agreement was updated in 1993 for those existing snowmobile trails established on existing roads and trails. The agreement will be affective until one party calls for the termination of the agreement or there is a change in the current situation.

By completing the Snowmobile Grant Program PEIS in 1993, FWP complied with its statutory responsibility for the action of: Administration of state funds, as grants to grooming project sponsors for the maintenance of designated trail routes.

The site specific analysis is the responsibility of the land management agency. The U.S. Forest Service has completed this analysis in the Gallatin Forest Plan and determined that existing federal roads and trails are categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In 1992, the Washington Office of the Forest Service issued amendment 1909.15-92-1 to FSH 1909.15, Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook. This amendment clarified categorical exclusions. One item clarified was grooming. This amendment lists those categories which,

"At the discretion of the responsible official, a project or case file and a decision memo are not required but may be prepared for categories of actions set forth in sections 21.1a and 31.1b."
(Section 31.1)

Section 31.1b lists those categories established by the Chief as,

"...categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or EA unless scoping indicates extraordinary circumstances exist."

Listed under Item 31.1b is item 4.d,

"Pruning vegetation and cleaning culverts along a trail and grooming the surface of the trail."

10. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Beaverhead National Forest, Dillon Ranger District	Multi-Party Agreement	1993
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Annual Project Agreement	1996

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region Three 1400 S. 19th Bozeman, MT 59715	\$ 12,000

© Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Grant Management
Beaverhead National Forest, Dillon Ranger District	Land Management Agency

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the PEIS Review Process:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Beaverhead National Forest, Dillon Ranger District
Montana Resource Information System

DILLON SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM
 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
 MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
Issue 1 Administration	Map identifying proposed trails and facilities	1	Does map clearly identify proposed activities (i.e. trails, parking lots, etc.)?	Y	Go to #2	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
	Decision memo and env. document from land mgmnt agency	2	Do any proposed activities occur on lands managed by another agency?	Y	Go to #2a	YES
				N	Go to #3	
		2a	Did the land mgmnt agency prepare an env. document?	Y	Go to #2b	YES
				N	Go to #3	
		2b	Was the decision memo supplied with application?	Y	Go to #4	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
	Internal environmental review document	3	Does the proposal include operation and maintenance projects?	Y	Go to #3b	YES
				N	Go to #3a	



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		3b	Has checklist EA been prepared	Y	Go to #3c	YES <i>THROUGH IT</i>
				N	Request Submittal	
		3c	Does the checklist EA satisfy MEPA/NEPA?	Y	Go to #3h	YES
				N	Go to #3d	
		3d	Has an EA been prepared?	Y	Go to #3e	
				N	Request EA	
		3e	Did the EA satisfy MEPA/NEPA?	Y	Go to #3h	
				N	Go to #3f	
		3f	Has an EIS been prepared?	Y	Go to #3g	
				N	Request EIS	
		3g	Did EIS satisfy MEPA/NEPA?	Y	Go to #3h	
				N	Request Proposal	
		3h	Did applicant supply decision notice?	Y	Go to #4	YES DM BY REGION WHEN THIS IS DONE
				N	Request Submittal	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
	Licenses, Leases, permits, clearances, etc.	4	Has applicant supplied appropriate copies required by other agencies?	Y	Go to #6	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
Issue 2 Air Quality	Map identifying proposed trails and facilities	6	Does map clearly identify proposed activities?	Y	Go to #6a	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
		6a	Does proposal include expansion of existing or construction of new trails?	Y	Go to #6b	NO
				N	Go to #7	
	Connection to other trails or trail systems	6b	Does the expanded or new trail connect with another trail system or trail?	Y	Go to #7	
				N	Go to #7	
	Public awareness plan	7	Has applicant submitted a public awareness plan?	Y	Go to #9	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
Issue 3 Topography, Soils, Hydrology	Map identifying proposed trail or facilities	9	Does the map clearly identify proposed activities?	Y	Go to #9a	YES
				N	Request Submittal	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		9a	Are there areas of known insufficient snowcover along proposed trails?	Y	Go to #9b	NO
				N	Go to #9c	
		9b	Are areas of known insufficient snowcover identified on the maps?	Y	Go to #9c	
				N	Request Submittal	
		9c	Are there areas characterized by summer wet meadows?	Y	Go to #9d	YES
				N	Go to #10	
		9d	Are areas of known wet meadows identified on the map?	Y	Go to #9e	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
		9e	Have viable alternatives around areas of known insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows been identified?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #10	YES <i>Trail on road</i>
				N	Request Submittal	
	Avoidance	10	Has applicant submitted a plan for avoidance of areas of known insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows?	Y	Go to #10a	YES TRAIL ON ROAD
				N	Request Plan	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		10a	Does the plan identify specific measures for each area identified on the map?	Y	Go to #11	YES <i>Trails on road</i>
				N	Request Specifics	
	Seasonal Restrictions	11	Does the proposal include stream crossings?	Y	Go to #11a	YES
					N	
		11a	Does the proposed stream crossing utilize an existing structure?	Y	Go to #12	<i>yes</i>
				N	Go to #11b	
		11b	Are there viable alternatives to crossing the stream that would utilize existing structures?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #12	YES TRAIL IS ON ROAD
				N	Go to #11c	
		11c	Is construction of temporary crossing structures viable in the proposed crossing location?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #12	X
				N	Reject	
	Public Awareness Plan	12	Has applicant submitted a public awareness plan?	Y	Go to #13	YES
					N	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
Issue 4 Wildlife	Map identifying proposed activities	13	Does map clearly identify proposed activities?	Y	Go to #13a	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
		13a	Are there known ungulate wintering areas in the vicinity of proposed trails?	Y	Go to #13b	YES
				N	Go to #14	
		13b	Are there ungulate wintering areas identified on the map?	Y	Go to #13c	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
		13c	Do proposed trails remain on the periphery of winter ranges?	Y	Go to #13f	YES
				N	Go to #14	
		13d	Does proposed trail pass through wintering areas?	Y	Go to #13e	
				N	Go to #13h	
		13e	Is there a viable alternate route available for use?	Y	Go to #13f	
				N	Reject	
	Avoidance	13f	Is the trail length along the periphery of the wintering area the least possible?	Y	Go to #13g	YES
				N	Revise Plan	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		13g	Was vegetative screening used whenever possible?	Y	Go to #13h	YES
				N	Revise to utilize veg screen	
		13h	Has signing plan been proposed to keep snowmobilers from disturbing wintering ungulates?	Y	Go to #14	YES <i>FWT P Wildlife Area Snowmobile Signs</i>
				N	Request Plan	
	Seasonal Restrictions	14	Are there ungulate wintering areas in grizzly bear habitat?	Y	Go to #14a	NO
				N	Go to #15	
		14a	Are there proposed trails near these areas?			
	Idle Zones	15	Are there known bald eagle nests or grizzly hibernation areas?	Y	Go to #15a	NO
				N	Go to #15d	
		15a	Are trails proposed near any of these sites?	Y	Go to #15b	
				N	Go to #15d	
		15b	Are viable alternatives identified that avoid these areas?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #15d	

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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
				N	Go to #15c	
		15c	Have idle zones been proposed for these areas?	Y	Go to #15d	
				N	Stipulate - Go to #15d	
		15d	Has the Natural Heritage wildlife list for the proposed region been submitted (NRIS - State library)?	Y	Go to #15e	YES
				N	Request Submittal	
		15e	Does the Natural Heritage list identify any rare or endangered wildlife species in the area of the proposal?	Y	Go to #15f	<i>No</i> <i>Sensitive with head trail</i> <i>but trail crosses on bridge -</i> <i>no impact</i>
				N	Go to #16	
		15f	Has applicant submitted an avoidance or seasonal restriction plan or other appropriate mitigative measures for these areas?	Y	Go to #16	
				N	Request Submittal	
	Signing	16	Have signing strategies been proposed to identify idle zones?	Y	Go to #17	<i>No</i> <i>Idle zones not</i> <i>necessary</i>
				N	Stipulate - Go to #17	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
	Public awareness plan	17	Has a public awareness plan been established?	Y	Go to #18	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #18	
	Clearance Oversight	18	Did applicant supply info and wildlife clearance with application?	Y	Go to #19	YES
				N	Request	
Issue 5 Vegetation	Maps identifying proposed trails and facilities	19	Does map clearly identify proposed activities?	Y	Go to #19a	YES
				N	Request	
		19a	Is the proposed trail/facility located entirely on an existing road or trail?	Y	Go to #20	YES
				N	Go to #19b	
		19b	Have existing roads been used whenever possible?	Y	Go to #19c	
				N	Stipulate - Go to #19c	
		19c	Does all or a portion of trails occur on a vegetated road or trail?	Y	Go to #19e	
				N	Go to #19d	
		19d	Does all or a portion of proposed activity occur on undeveloped land?	Y	Go to #19e	
				N	Go to #20	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		19e	Has the Natural Heritage vegetation list for the proposed region been submitted (NRIS - State Lib)?	Y	Go to #19f	
				N	Stipulate - Go to 19f	
		19f	Does the Natural Heritage list identify any rare or endangered plant species?	Y	Go to #19g	
				N	Go to #20	
		19g	Are any species on the list common in alpine tundra?	Y	Go to #19h	
				N	Go to #19j	
		19h	Do any proposed trails that are not on existing roads cross alpine tundra?	Y	Go to #19i	
				N	go to #19j	
		19i	Are there alternatives to crossing the alpine tundra?	Y	Go to #19j	
				N	Reject	
		19j	Do any proposed activities involve areas of insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows?	Y	Go to #19k	
				N	Go to #20	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		19k	Are there viable alternatives to avoid areas of insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #20	
				N	Go to #19l	
		19l	Has applicant submitted an avoidance or seasonal restriction plan for areas of insufficient snowcover or summer wet meadows?	Y	Go to #20	
				N	Request - Go to #20	
	Monitoring for noxious weeds	20	Are noxious weeds present within the trail area, particularly in staging areas?	Y	Go to #20a	YES
				N	Go to #21	
		20a	Has noxious weed plan been proposed in application?	Y	Go to #20b	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #20b	
		20b	Has monitoring plan been proposed to survey vegetation damage and spread of noxious weeds?	Y	Go to #21	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #21	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
	Public Awareness	21	Has a public awareness strategy been proposed?	Y	Go to #22	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #22	
Issue 6 Socioeconomics	Planning	22	Does the application include organized events or promotional activities that would utilize funded trails?	Y	Go to #22a	YES
				N	Go to #23	
		22a	Does application include projected number of trail users generated by the events?	Y	Go to #22b	
				N	Request - Go to #22b	
		22b	Does application include a public safety plan for the events?	Y	Go to #22c	
				N	Stipulate - Go to #22c	
		22c	Has applicant identified additional employment requirements during event?	Y	Go to #23	
				N	Request - Go to #23	
Issue 7 Cultural	Map identifying proposed trails and facilities	23	Has map identifying proposed trails or facilities been submitted?	Y	Go to #23a	YES
				N	Request - Go to #23a	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		23a	Is entire proposed trail/facility located within an existing road or trail?	Y	Go to #24	YES
				N	Go to #23b	
		23b	Does all or a portion of the proposed trail/facility occur on a historic road or trail?	Y	Go to #23d	
				N	Go to #23c	
		23c	Does all or a portion of the proposed trail/facility occur on an undeveloped land?	Y	Go to #23d	
				N	Go to #24	
		23d	Do viable alternative routes exist that could utilize existing roads or trails?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #24	
				N	Go to #23e	
	Site specific treatment	23e	Was SHPO consulted for determination of need for cultural resource investigation?	Y	Go to #23f	
				N	Stipulate - Go to #23f	
		23f	Was a cultural resource investigation conducted?	Y	Go to #23g	
				N	Inquire as to why	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		23g	Were significant sites found?	Y	Go to #23h	
				N	Go to #24	
		23h	Were adequate mitigations applied (i.e. reroute, etc.)?	Y	Go to #23i	
				N	Stipulate - Go to #23i	
	Public awareness plan	23i	Is a public awareness strategy proposed?	Y	Go to #24	
				N	Stipulate - Go to #24	
Issue 8 Safety/Private Property	Maps identifying proposed trails and facilities	24	Does map clearly identify proposed activities	Y	Go to #24a	YES
				N	Request - Go to #24a	
		24a	Does application include proposal for signing strategy identifying locations for warning signs?	Y	Go to #24b	YES EXISTIN G SYSTEM SIGNS ON GROUN D
				N	Stipulate - Go to #24b	
		24b	Have private properties along proposed trails been identified?	Y	Go to #24c	YES
				N	Request - Go to #24c	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
	Avoidance	24c	Do viable alternatives exist that avoid private property?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #25	NO TRAIL ON ROAD
				N	Go to #24d	
	Signing and public awareness	24d	Has applicant included a strategy for signing and public awareness re: private property?	Y	Go to #25	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #25	
Issue 9 Wilderness Areas	Map identifying proposed trails and facilities	25	Do maps identify proposed trail locations?	Y	Go to #25a	YES
				N	Request - Go to #25a	
		25a	Are proposed trails located near wilderness boundary or designated non-motorized area?	Y	Go to #25b	NO
				N	Go to #25e	
	Trail location strategies	25b	Is there heavy vegetative cover or topographic features between proposed trail and wilderness boundary /designated non-motorized area?	Y	Go to #25e	
				N	Go to #25c	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		25c	Do viable alternatives exist that would utilize vegetative screening between wilderness boundary or designated non-motorized area?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #25e	
				N	Go to #25d	
		25d	Do viable alternatives exist that would situate topographic features between proposed trail and wilderness area or designated non-motorized area?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #25e	
				N	Go to #25e	
		25e	Does proposal include trails on or adjacent to established cc ski trails?	Y	Go to #25f	YES SKI TRAIL NEARBY NOT ON SIGN designating in place
				N	Go to #26	
		25f	Are there viable alts. that would avoid placement of proposed trails on or adjacent to cc ski trails?	Y	Stipulate - Go to #26	NO
				N	Go to #26	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
MONTANA SNOWMOBILE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
	Signing	26	Has signing program been established that would warn snowmobilers of shared use areas, wilderness boundaries, intersections, etc?	Y	Go to #27	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #27	
	Speed Limits	27	Does proposed trail go through residential areas of particular sensitivity?	Y	Go to #27a	NO
				N	Go to #28	
		27a	Has applicant established appropriate speed limits or hourly restrictions in areas of sensitivity?	Y	Go to #28	
				N	Stipulate - Go to #28	
		28	Has applicant proposed public awareness plan that includes consideration for residential and sensitive areas?	Y	Go to #29	NO- NO RES. AREAS
				N	Stipulate - Go to #29	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
Issue 8 Law Enforcement		29	Has applicant provided law enforcement report from DFW&P Region Warden Captain and/or land managing agency identifying documented snowmobile trespass on private lands and/or wilderness areas caused by adjoining or nearby funded trail and proposal for addressing such violations?	Y	Go to #30	NO NO SUCH PROBLEM EXISTS <i>USFS Reports no citations Warden Captain reports no problems exist (BL)</i>
				N	Stipulate - Go to #30	
Issue 10 Changes in Aesthetic Values	Litter Remediation	30	Has applicant included a trash receptacle location, placement and management strategy?	Y	Go to #30a	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #30a	
		30a	Has applicant proposed "pack-it-in pack-it-out" type signing strategy?	Y	Go to #30b	YES
				N	Stipulate - Go to #30b	
	Trail Location Strategies	30b	Has applicant satisfied questions 25-29?	Y	Go to #31	YES
				N	Go to #25	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CRITERIA
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DISCIPLINE	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS		REVIEW CRITERIA	Y/N (Circle 1)	REQUIRED ACTION	√
		31	Have all appropriate boxes in right-hand column been checked?	Y	Env. considerations approved	YES
				N	Take appropriate actions until all boxes are checked	

BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS

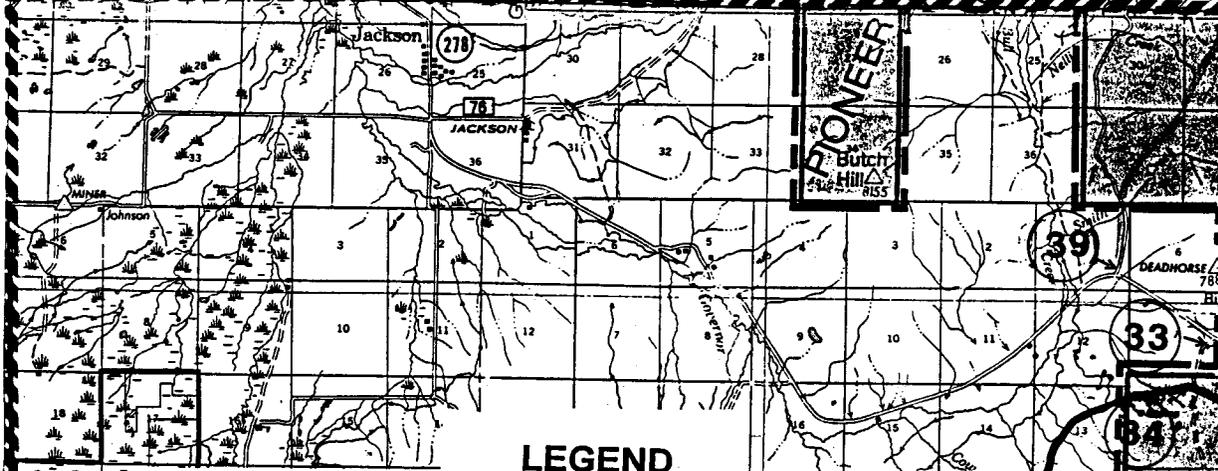
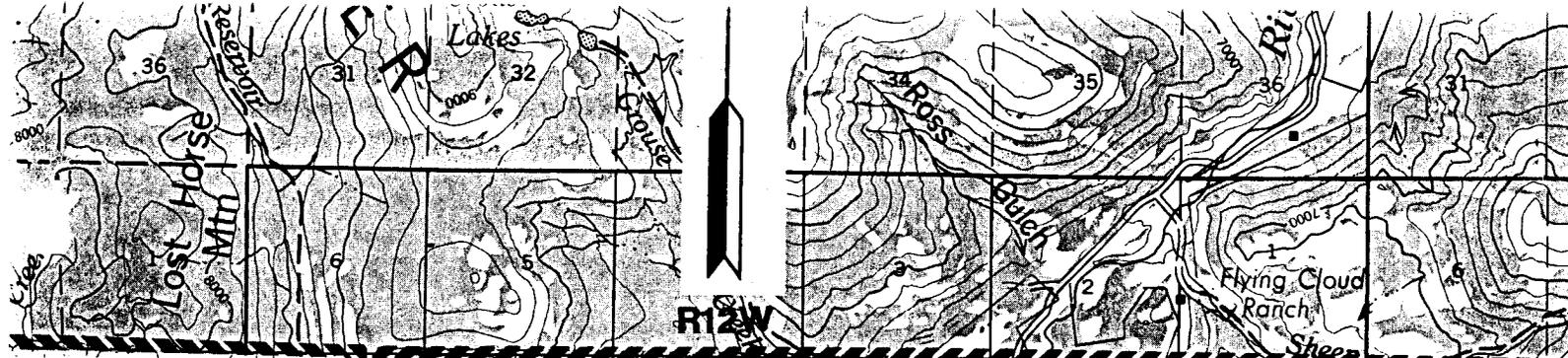
Environmental Review
August 1, 1996

Appendix 1

Trail Map

The enclosed trail map is the newest map that has been produced by the Club, USFS, MDFW&P, Travel Montana, Department of Commerce and Gold West Country. This map is used by three different intermingled snowmobile clubs with co-operation from the USFS.

This map shows the trails that the Beaverhead Sno-Riders groom (the wide red lines), the ungulate wintering areas as listed under the Wildlife Clearance (Appendix 17) and the stream crossings that are not on the USFS controlled lands.



LEGEND

-  DOUBLE WIDE (Groomed 1-4 times per month)
-  WAY TRAILS (Not normally groomed - usable, lightly traveled, some steep grades.)
-  NATIONAL FOREST LANDS
-  ELK WINTER RANGE (Closed to snowmobile traffic.)
-  OTHER OWNERSHIP
-  35 TRAIL JUNCTION

SCALE: 1/2 IN. = 1 MI.

EQUIPMENT FAILS

calm - think, decide on a
your compass.
track if possible.
t possible, remain in place.
separate if with a party.
abandon your snowshoes or

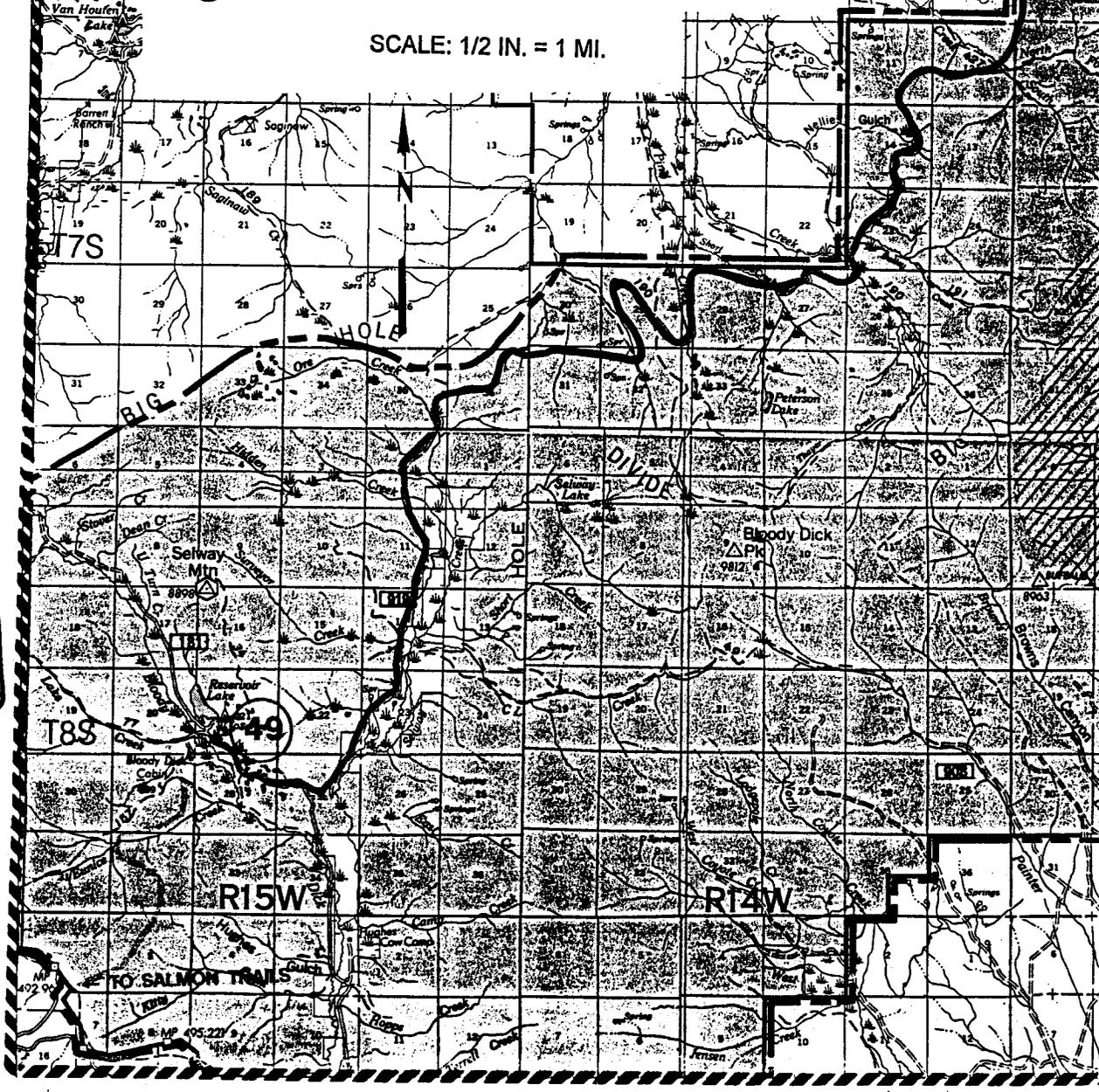
a fire and shelter - stay warm.
your base camp.

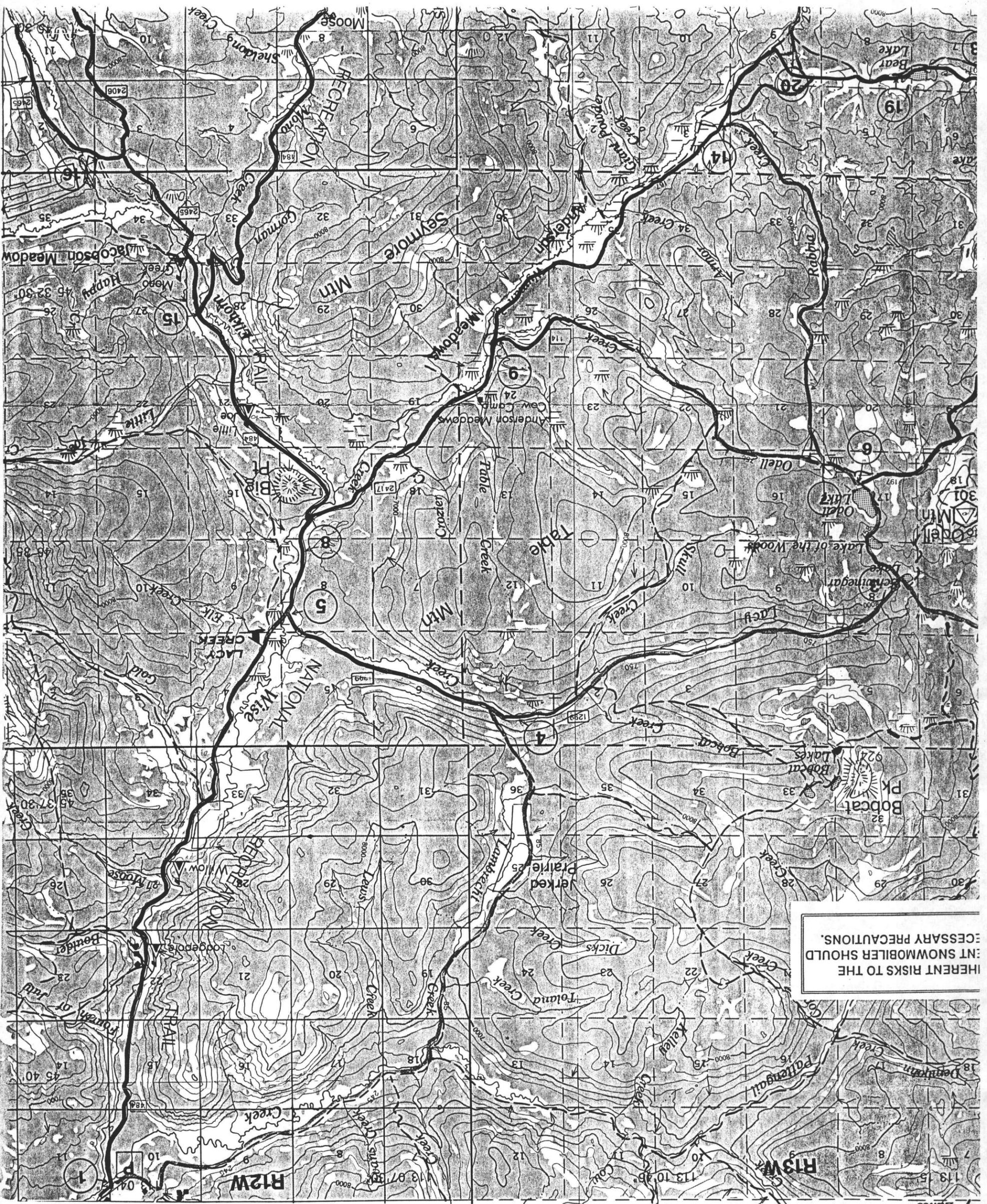
DISTRESS SIGNALS

three of anything that will
t attention: three smokes or
s of light; three blasts,
es or shouts.



**PACK IT IN
PACK IT OUT**





INHERENT RISKS TO THE
ENT SNOWMOBILER SHOULD
NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

Appendix 2:
Annual Grooming Operations Plan

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL GROOMING
OPERATIONS PLAN

The Beaverhead Snowriders Snowmobile Club plans on providing groomed trails in the areas listed below on the following schedule, from 12/1, 1996 to 3/30, 1997:

<u>Trail</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>When & How Often Groomed</u>	<u>Priority</u>
All Trail in Grasshopper area.	185 miles	Every other day / on rotation basis	#1

(Add attached sheet if needed.)

This schedule is subject to budget, weather, and equipment breakdowns.

Assurances:

We shall remove, lessen, or sign known and potential hazards in cooperation with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and affected landowners. Directional and informational signs shall also be provided according to need and budget availability. We will have a safety plan detailing education efforts, search and rescue, accident reporting and follow-up procedures developed prior to any trail grooming.

Appendix 3:
Required Licenses, Leases, Permits,
Clearances, Etc.

File Code: 2300

Date: April 10, 1996

Mr. John Hoerning
President, Beaverhead Snow Riders
P.O. Box 867
Dillon, MT 59725

Dear John:

This letter is in response to your request for information needed by the club for review of the Montana Snowmobiling Grant Program.

The following addresses Categorical Exclusion Criteria numbers two through seven that must be met in order to qualify for a categorical exclusion.

- 2) Snowmobile trail on federal lands is already incorporated in U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management travel plan and Multi-Party agreement has been signed.

The grooming performed by the Beaverhead Snow Riders is on previously groomed trails that have been incorporated into the Beaverhead National Forest Travel Plan and a Multi-Party Agreement is in place. (Southwest Montana Interagency Visitor Map and the Multi-Party Agreement are Attachments A and B) All trails groomed by your club that lie on the Beaverhead National Forest or on Forest Service rights-of-way are identified by green highlighting on Attachment C. The section of the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway highlighted in pink on attachment C was transferred to Beaverhead County in 1992. Prior to 1992, grooming of this road was incorporated in the Beaverhead Travel Plan, and the Multi-Party agreement (attachment B) reflects that grooming.

- 3) Fish, Wildlife, and Parks wildlife clearance has been obtained.

All routes identified by highlighting on attachment C have had Fish, Wildlife, and Parks involvement and clearance either through coordination during Travel Planning, specific NEPA analyses, or both.

- 4) Snowmobile Project Agreement has been signed by sponsor and Department.

The 1995-96 agreement is Attachment D.

- 5) Project is on an existing roadway or previously ungroomed, but authorized by the land management agency, snowmobile trail.

The only changes to the groomed trail system since the 1993 Multi-Party agreement is the addition of less than one mile of trail in section 6, T5S, R12W, and a relocation of approximately 1 mile of trail south of Rabbia Creek in section 4, T4S, R12W. The first trail accesses the Maverick Mountain Ski area and was approved through a separate NEPA

document in 1994. The second trail was relocated in 1995 to avoid wet areas, steep sideslopes and stream crossings in 1995 and was also covered under a separate NEPA decision. These NEPA documents are available on request. The remainder of the system was approved in the MOU, (attachment B), dated 6/7/93 and was fully addressed and coordinated with the Interagency Travel Plan Update completed in FY 93 (attachment A).

- 6) Development or improvements on federal lands have already satisfied NEPA.

Most trails groomed by the Beaverhead Snow Riders on the Forest use existing roads, or multi-purpose trails that have been constructed after completion of NEPA decisions or their construction predated NEPA. Routine maintenance and grooming of these roads and trails are categorically excluded from NEPA as outlined on Forest Service Handbook FS 1909.15, Chapter 30, Section 31.1b. (attachment E) In those few cases where the snowmobile trail exists only as a groomed snowmobile trail individual NEPA documents were prepared for snowmobile grooming. These NEPA documents are available on request.

- 7) Trail is not in a wilderness study area or designated non-motorized area.

The only portion of the groomed trail system located within a "wilderness study area" is the trail from Upper Anderson Meadows to Bear Lake. The 1986 Beaverhead National Forest Plan, designates that area a dispersed Recreation Management area and specifically allows for snowmobile use. (1986 Beaverhead National Forest -Management Area #8 Dispersed Recreation Area Direction, Attachment F)

Although there are other segments of the groomed trail system that are located within inventoried roadless areas (RARE II) none of those areas have been recommended for wilderness either through the Forest Plan or through Congressional proposals. Roadless Area Maps for the West Pioneers and South Big Hole are attachment G.

If you need additional information please contact Dick Owenby of this office.

Sincerely,



401 DEBORAH L.R. AUSTIN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

January 5, 1995

In the Snowmobile PEIS by the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, they have a checklist of environmental review criteria to be used by those organizations applying for grooming funds. One of the items that is causing concern by the Forests/Districts is Item 3h, which requires the applicant to obtain the appropriate NEPA decision document from the Forest Service. This NEPA documentation can be viewed in a couple of ways. One is relative to the trails and play areas themselves, i.e. the travel management plan and the other is just the grooming of the trail.

If this is for the trails and play areas, then this requirement could be a problem for those snow trails and areas that have been in use for some time, i.e. before the Forest Plan was developed. We do not have site specific NEPA documents on most of our existing snow trails. The best we can do is give them the ROD from the Forest Plan EIS and this will not mention snow trails on the use of snowmobiles or cross country skiing. However, the travel map which was in existence at the time the Forest Plan was developed is made of part of the Forest Plan and as such is included in the EIS.

"Individual Forest Plans incorporated the then existing travel management plan, making it a part of the approved Forest Plan. Decision documents are required when changes are made to the existing management direction and/or the on-the-ground situation." (FSM 2300, Region One Supplement No. 2300-90-2, Section 2355.03(b), Policy)

The Region One Supplement also give direction on changes to the travel management plan:

"Forest Supervisors are required to review off-road travel management direction on an annual basis. If the direction needs amendment, the public must be given an opportunity to participate in the review and to comment on proposed changes. Sixty days advance notice will be given to allow for public review of proposed or revised designations (36 CFR 295.3). If changes are made in the status of a particular area or transportation facility, they must be made through a site-specific analysis using appropriate NEPA procedure." (FSM 2300, Region One Supplement No. 2300-90-2, Section 2355.03(d), Policy)

The above would apply to any changes in restrictions on snow trails or areas by winter recreationists, i.e. snowmobiles or x-country skiing. If new trails were constructed or if new snow trails or play areas were designated, they would require the proper NEPA documentation. Trails and areas open to use by snowmobiles and x-country skiers at the time of the development of the Forest Plan would not require additional NEPA documentation.

The grooming of trails is a different situation. In 1992, the WO issued amendment 1909.15-92-1 to FSH 1909.15, Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook. This amendment clarified categorical exclusions. One item clarified was grooming. This amendment lists those categories which,

"At the discretion of the responsible official, a project or case file and a decision memo are not required but may be prepared for categories of actions set forth in sections 21.1a and 31.1b." (Section 31.1)

Section 31.1b lists those categories established by the Chief as being,

"..... categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or EA unless scoping indicates extraordinary circumstances exist."

Listed under Item 31.1b is item 4.d,

"Pruning vegetation and cleaning culverts along a trail and grooming the surface of the trail."

This appears to include the grooming of snow trails.

This has implications for the funding by the Montana FW&P for grooming and the application by organizations for those funds. In the FW&P's environmental review criteria (checklist), there would not be any "decision notice" as grooming is a CE not requiring documentation. A letter stating this may meet the requirement in the State's checklist.

In summary, if the checklist is addressing the trails and play areas, then the trails and play areas identified in the travel management plan at the time of the development of the Forest Plan are covered under the EIS for the Forest Plan and thus the ROD is the NEPA decision document. Any subsequent changes to the travel management plan (i.e. new restrictions or additions) should have a NEPA document. If the issue is only the grooming of the trail, then it is a Chief's categorical exclusion which does not require documentation, PROVIDED scoping does not indicate extraordinary circumstances exist. Note this does require a scoping process. (Ref. FSM 2300, Region One Supplement No. 2300-90-2, Section 2355.03(d), Policy)

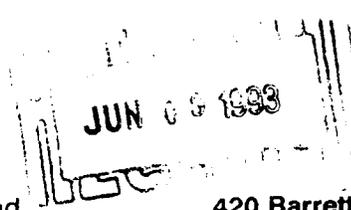


United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Beaverhead
National Forest
Dillon R.D.

420 Barrett
Dillon MT 59725
406/683-3900



Reply to: 1580

Date: JUN 8 1993

Ray Heagney
Parks Operations Specialist
Montana Department of FW&P
1400 S. 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Mr. Heagney:

Enclosed is a signed original of the MOU for Beaverhead SnoRiders, MDFW&P, and the Beaverhead National Forest.

Thank you for your continued support in providing snowmobiling opportunities on the Beaverhead Forest.

Sincerely,


WILLIAM B. HICKS
District Ranger

Enclosure

cc: SO



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
for
DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING AGREEMENT
between

BEAVERHEAD TRAIL USERS OR BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB
and
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
and
BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST - USDA FOREST SERVICE

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into by and between the Beaverhead Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club, a nonprofit organization in the State of Montana, ("the Club"), and the Montana department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, State of Montana, ("the department"), and the Beaverhead National Forest, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, ("the Forest Service"), collectively, ("the Cooperators") under the provisions of Montana, Code 23, Chapter 2, and Acts of Congress and regulations issued by the Secretary of Agriculture, which authorize the Forest Service to regulate occupancy and use of the National Forests.

WITNESSETH:

RECITALS

1. The Forest Service is responsible for the National Forests' recreation resources and their being available for public use and enjoyment, and
2. Managed and maintained snowmobile trails in the vicinity of Pioneer Mountains, Big Hole-Divide and Reservoir Lake on the Beaverhead National Forest need to be groomed to provide snowmobilers with a safer and more enjoyable recreation experience, and
3. The Club is interested in assisting in the maintenance and operation of snowmobile facilities and activities on the land administered by the Forest Service, for use by Club members as well as the general public, and
4. The Department controls State funds earmarked for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails and desires to cooperate with the Forest Service and the Club in the development and maintenance of snowmobile facilities on the land administered by the Forest Service, and
5. The general public will benefit from the three parties cooperating in the providing for these recreation facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises, the parties hereto agree as follows:

A. THE CLUB SHALL:

1. Meet with the Department to develop an Annual Operating Plan showing grooming routes, schedules, signing and club officers. Provide copies to the Department, and in turn, the Department shall provide copies to the Forest Service by July 1 of each year.
2. Erect at the trailhead certain signs as needed and store these signs in the off season. Necessary signs will be detailed in the Annual Operating Plan. Signs approved by the Department shall be purchased by the Department and installed by the Club.

3. Provide and erect at strategic points along the snowmobile trails, certain signs showing trail locations and lengths; and shall erect at the parking area or trailhead a sign which states that the project is funded by state gasoline tax refunds and snowmobile registration decal fees and lists the cooperators. Signs approved by the Department will be purchased by the Department and installed by the Club.

4. Perform such trail maintenance and marking as may be necessary to keep the trails safe and usable.

5. Provide trail grooming once a week, more or less, depending upon the suitability of snow conditions for snowmobiling and availability of funds in their snowmobile trail grooming budget.

6. Bill the Department at the end of each grooming month for costs of grooming. The Club may request an advance of funds by writing the Department at least two weeks prior to need for funds. Total or advances and bills shall not exceed the annual grant amount for any snow season. The Club shall itemize all expenditures and include documentation as required by the Department.

7. Meet annually or more often with the other parties to this agreement to coordinate activities pursuant to this agreement.

8. Hold the Department and Forest Service harmless from and indemnify them from and against all liability for injuries to or death of persons or damage to property arising from the negligent or reckless acts of its employees or agents in carrying out the terms of this agreement.

B. THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

1. Allow its lands, in the areas indicated on the attached maps, to be used for snowmobiling.

2. Allow the Club, upon review and approval by the Forest Service and the Department of detailed annual operating plans, to improve trails by machine grading, cutting brush and small timber, minor bridge construction and other improvements as may be necessary.

3. Meet annually or more often with other parties to this agreement for the purpose of coordinating activities undertaken pursuant to this agreement.

4. When and if funds are available, make plastic blazes available to the Club for trail marking.

C. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

1. Reimburse the Club for the costs it incurs for grooming trails not to exceed the annual grant amount per snow season. Costs shall be based upon rates established through negotiation with local contractors by the Club. The Department will have no liability for charges in excess of the annual grant amount per snow season, unless, within the sole discretion of the Department, it is determined that sufficient additional funds exist in the Snowmobile Trail Grooming Account. If funds are available in that account, grooming costs may be reimbursed after the maximum charge of the annual grant amount has been incurred by the Club, provided, however, that such reimbursement shall be at the sole discretion of the Department.

2. Monitor the Club for performance standards and safety, and periodically report to the Forest Service the adequacy of Club performance.

3. Meet annually or more often with the other parties to this agreement for the purpose of coordinating activities undertaken pursuant to this agreement.

4. Maintain and enforce guidelines of grooming according to USDA FSH 2309.18 Trails Handbook and appropriate Department standards.
5. An annual plan of Operation will be presented to the Forest Service by the Department for its approval prior to July 1 of each year.

D. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT:

1. Any proposed development or betterment projects will be jointly agreed to by the Cooperators prior to their initiation.
2. Nothing herein shall be construed as binding the Cooperators for the payment of money beyond the current fiscal year unless a financial plan for subsequent years has been approved by the Cooperators.
3. No contributions herein provided for shall entitle the Club or the Department to any share or interest in the said facilities other than the right to use the same under the regulations of the Forest Service. All improvements shall be and remain the property of the United States.
4. Permission to work on National Forest Lands under the terms of this Agreement do not in any way convey to the Club or the Department, their officials, or any person or persons working with the Forest Service in the performance of said work, employee status that would extend to them the benefits of the Federal Employees Compensation Act, as amended.
5. The snowmobile trails and facilities will be open to the general public. The Club and the Department will in no way control access to or use of the trails or improvements.
6. No member of, or delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this Agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this Agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.
7. Cooperators will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (PL 88-352) and in accordance with Title VI of that Act, no person of the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, handicap, or national origin, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the cooperators receive Federal financial assistance and will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this Agreement.
8. The Club and the Department shall indemnify the United States against any liability for damage to life or property arising from the occupancy or use of National Forest lands under this Agreement, providing such damage or property is due to the negligent acts or omissions of the Club or Department.
9. This Agreement may be revised as necessary, by mutual consent of all parties, by the issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by all parties.
10. The rights and obligations of any party to this agreement may be terminated upon the giving of thirty (30) day's notice by that party. Unless terminated by written notice, this Agreement will remain in force indefinitely.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the last date written below.

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

BY Mayme Dill
TITLE For. Forest Supervisor
DATE 6/7/93

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

BY Robert R. Matthe
TITLE Reg. Supt.
DATE 5/20/93

BEAVERHEAD TRAIL USERS OR BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB

BY Bob E. Matthe
TITLE Pres.
DATE 5/17/93

SNOWMOBILE PROJECT AGREEMENT

THIS PROPOSAL requests an agreement be established between the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, an agency of the State of Montana, hereinafter called "Department," and (club name) BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS hereinafter called "the club."

WITNESSETH:

RECITALS

1. Montana statutes earmark a portion of gasoline taxes and snowmobile registration decal fees for snowmobile facility operation, maintenance and development for public use at no cost to the public.
2. Sufficient funds have accrued in the snowmobile earmarked revenue account to fund this proposal.
3. The Parks Division, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, is responsible for the administration of this program.
4. The Parks Division desires to seek means of funding snowmobile facilities maintenance projects, and to seek baseline information for snowmobile operations projects.
5. The Club is an entity in the immediate vicinity of the trails to be maintained and is desirous of seeing trails maintained for snowmobilers.
6. Both parties hereto desire to maintain trails for snowmobile use on land shown on a map submitted as a supplement to this application, designated Attachment "B", and
7. As demonstrated by the attached written statements, the landowner(s) of affected property(ies) has/have granted permission to the Club to carry out the proposal on affected property.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, conditions, and terms hereinafter set forth, the Club proposes:

1. That Attachment "B" is an accurate depiction of the areas covered by this proposal.
2. That the Club will perform the following activities and duties:
 - A. Utilize dollars granted for the purpose of maintaining snowmobile trails detailed in Attachment "B". This maintenance shall be conducted as conditions required during the agreement period.

- B. Permit inspection of the project by the Department or its employees or agents at any and all reasonable times during the term of the agreement.
 - C. Indemnify and save harmless the State and the Department from all claims from injuries or damages arising or growing out of the operations performed under any resulting agreement.
 - D. Will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, or marital status, physical or mental disability, or national origin in the use of any property or facility maintained pursuant to any resulting agreement.
 - E. Fully comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, etc. It shall be the Club's responsibility to familiarize itself with the relevant laws, rules, regulations, etc.
 - F. Require that in all subcontracts let in fulfilling any resulting agreement, preference must be given to the employment of bona fide Montana residents at the prevailing rate of wages applicable to the county or locality in which the work is being performed (section 18-2-401, et. seq., MCA).
 - G. Provide the Department with documentation of actual and necessary expenses incurred in trail maintenance in the form and upon the dates requested; all such documentation will be submitted by May 1 of the contract period. The Club agrees to allow and permit legislative or department auditors access to its records for the purpose of determining that this grant is administered in accordance with grant terms and conditions as set forth in any resulting agreement.
4. Agrees that any contract resulting from this proposal shall be with the club, as an independent contractor and does not establish an employer-employee relationship between the Department and the Club or any person employed by the Club for any purpose. In this regard, the Club agrees:
- A. To pay all required state, federal or local taxes, fees, including unemployment insurance and workers' compensation insurance or other assessments related to employment of any person or individual employed by the Club as necessary in fulfillment of this contract.

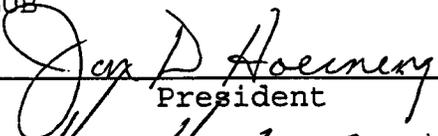
B. To abide by the State Prevailing Wage Rate - Section 18-2-406 MCA, which provides that contractors, sub-contractors and employees who are performing services under public works contracts as provided in Part 4, MCA shall post in a prominent and accessible site on the project or work area, not later than the first day of work, a legible statement of all wages to be paid to the employees on such site or work area.

5. Agrees that the Department may unilaterally terminate any contract resulting from this proposal upon refusal by the Club to allow access to records necessary to carry out the legislative audit and analysis function set forth in Title V, Chapters 12 and 13, MCA.
6. Agrees that venue will be in Lewis and Clark County should any legal action arise from this proposal or any contract issued in whole or in part therefrom.
7. Agrees that it is understood that a failure to comply with any of the provisions listed above can result in a rejection of this proposal and/or the voiding of any resulting contract.

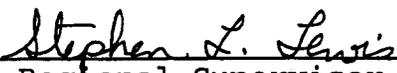
NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, conditions, and terms hereinafter set forth, the parties agree as follows:

1. The period covered by this agreement will begin July 1, (1996) and will continue in effect until June 30, (1997).
2. This agreement may be revised as necessary, by mutual consent of all parties by issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by all parties.
3. The rights and obligations of any part to this agreement may be terminated upon giving thirty (30) days notice by the party.
4. The agreement accepts the Snowmobile Project Proposal/ Application and becomes part of the agreement.

BY: CLUB

 President	4/29/96 Date
 Secretary	4/29/96 Date

BY: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

 Regional Supervisor	5-28-96 Date
--	-----------------

LAND USE LICENSE NO. 556

The STATE OF MONTANA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS, herein grants Beaverhead Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club, c/o Dave Mathson, President, P. O. Box 867, Dillon, MT 59725, herein called Licensee, a LAND USE LICENSE to occupy and use lands administered by the DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS, subject to all of the terms and conditions hereof.

1. DESCRIPTION

A tract or strip of land described as follows: Those existing trails in Sections 35 & 36, Township 5 South, Range 13 West; Sections 13, 14, 23, 24 & 25, Township 6 South, Range 14 West, Beaverhead County, as shown in red on attached "Exhibit A".

2. FILING FEE

A fee of Twenty-five and No/100 Dollars (\$25.00) has been paid to the Licensor prior to issuance of this Land Use License.

3. RENTAL

Beginning upon acceptance of this License, and for the term of this License, the Licensee agrees to pay, in advance, an annual rental of Seventy-Five and No/100 Dollars (\$75.00). Said rental is due and payable to the Department of State Lands, Capitol Station, Helena, MT 59620, upon execution of this license for the first year through November 30, 1992 and then on or before November 15 of each year thereafter for the duration of this license. Failure to pay each year's rental on or before said due date automatically cancels this license. License may be reinstated with approval of the Licensor within thirty (30) days after cancellation upon payment of the amount due plus an additional amount equal to that rental.

4. DURATION

This License shall take effect upon signature of the Administrator, Lands Division and remain in full force and effect up to and including November 31, 1997, unless canceled on account of sale or exchange of the land or for other good and sufficient reason prior to such date.

5. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Land Use License is for seasonal snow grooming and trail use of designated public snowmobile recreation routes, erection and maintenance of appropriate signing and administration of the same as necessary. Said season of use is annually from December 15th to April 15th.

Wildlife Clearance

SNOWMOBILE GROOMING PROGRAM

Snowmobile Trail System Regional Wildlife Clearance

Snowmobile Club - Wise River Jack Pine Savages
Beaverhead Snowriders
Big Hole Snowriders

Are there any wildlife concerns?

Wildlife concerns are locally present, but are mitigatable.
(See Specifics)

If yes, which species?

Moose and Elk

Where are Wildlife Concerns, and what mitigative measures are to be employed?

The Wise River Road from the parking area to Mono Creek, and including Lacy Creek, Pattengail Creek, and Lower Wyman Creek should be signed describing the area as moose winter range, and asking for riders to steer clear of moose.

Moose and elk winter in the Warm Springs area, including the Woody Creek vicinity. Snowmobile riders should restrict themselves to the trail through the Woody Creek area, and should steer clear of moose and elk in the area as well. A signing program would advise riders of this fact.

The area encompassing Adson Creek in the Wise River area is also moose and limited elk winter range, and riders should avoid contact with wintering animals.

Snowmobilers should continue to "police" themselves, and to report individuals harassing wildlife.

From the town of Wise River south along the scenic byway to its intersection with Mono Creek Campground, comprises moose winter range. Additionally, the Lacy Creek, and Pattengail Creek, comprise key moose winter range.

That area encompassing the low elevations near Maverick Mountain Ski Area also comprises moose winter range.

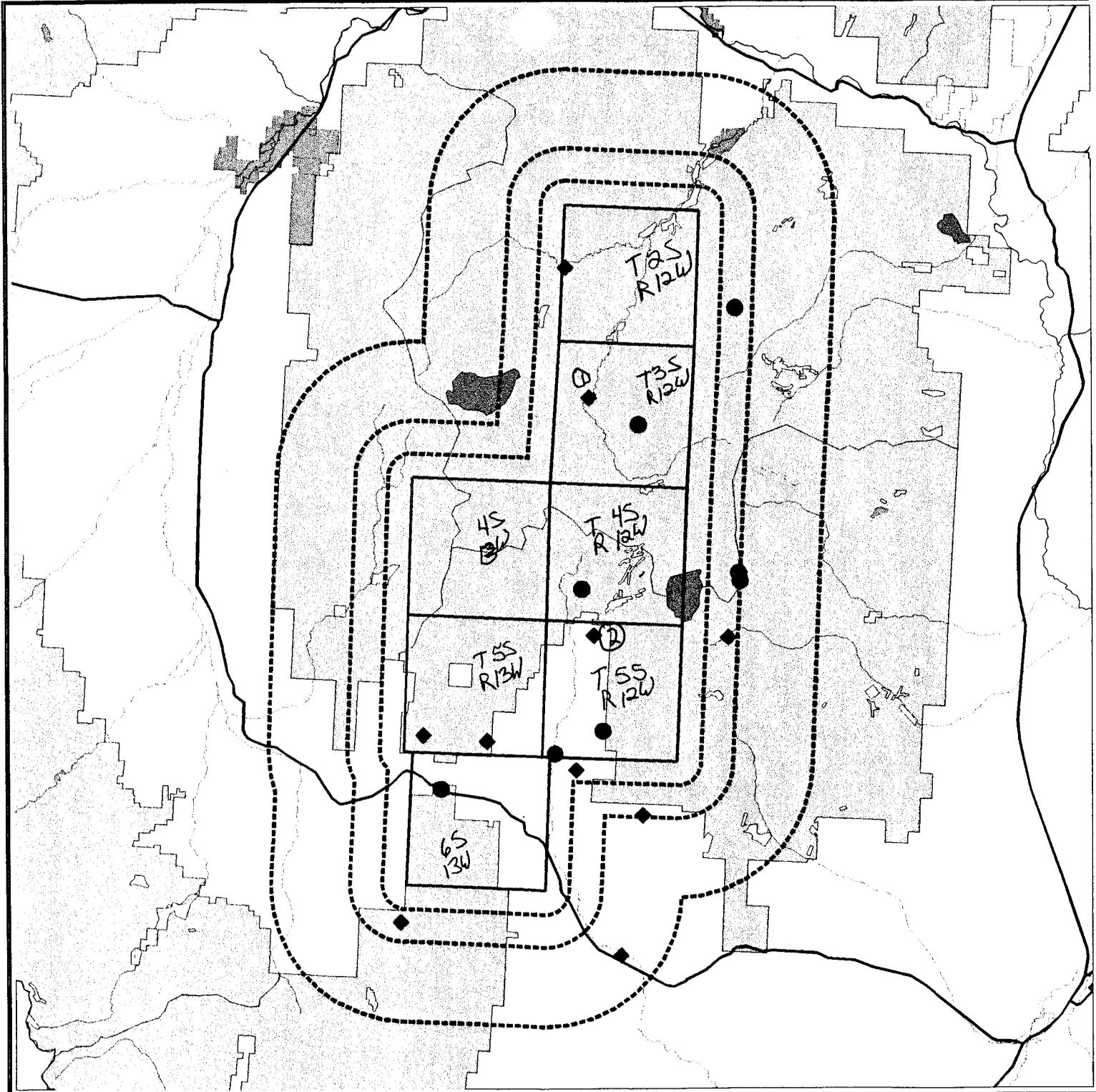
South of the Wise River on the ^Sswamp ^{cr.} and ^Titan ^Gulch divide is limited elk winter range. In the early spring period, elk stage in the Vipond park area.

Bryant Creek area is also moose winter range.

Those areas mentioned above should be signed at trailhead parking areas and at regular intervals along the each trail corridor.

Doug P. K... 7-15-96 Gerald Walker 7/15/96
Regional Wildlife Biologist Date Regional Parks Manager Date

Species of Special Concern Dillon Snowmobile Trails



Element Occurrences

- ◆ Animal
- Plant
- Community
- ⊕ Other
- Selection Area
- Selection Buffer
- 1.5 Mile M-precision Buffer
- 5-Mile G-precision Buffer

Managed Areas

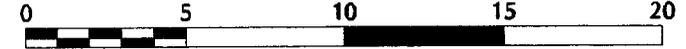
- National Forest lands
- BLM special areas
- National Park Service areas
- US Fish & Wildlife Service areas
- Wilderness areas
- Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Research Natural Areas
- MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks areas
- Private preserves & easements

① Boreal Owl - sensitive - adjacent to road - monitor future populations - not on groomed trail
 ② Cutthroat Trout - sensitive - trail crosses on bridge - no impact to trout

NOTE: Additional species locations occur in this area but are not displayed due to their sensitive nature.

Not all legend items may occur on map. "Precision" buffers are designed to capture those records that, though mapped outside the selection area, may actually occur within it.

Scale of Miles



Montana State Library
NRIS Natural Resource Information System
 Montana Natural Heritage Program

October 08, 1996

MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
 Species of Special Concern: Dillon Snowmobile Trails

Ref.	Name/Common Name	G Rank	S Rank	USESA	USFS	Township-Range-Sec.	County(ies)
	LESQUERELLA PULCHELLA BEAUTIFUL BLADDERPOD	G2	S2		SENSITIVE	002S011W 29	Beaverhead
045	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T3	S3		SENSITIVE	002S012W 18	Beaverhead
003	AEGOLIUS FUNEREUS BOREAL OWL	G5	S3S4	(3)	SENSITIVE	003S012W 17	Beaverhead
002	MIMULUS PRIMULOIDES PRIMROSE MONKEYFLOWER	G4	S2		SENSITIVE	003S012W 23	Beaverhead
002	SAXIFRAGA APETALA TINY SWAMP SAXIFRAGE	G3Q	S2			004S011W 21	Beaverhead
003	SCIRPUS CESPITOSUS TUFTED CLUB-RUSH	G5	S2		PROPOSED S	004S011W 21	Beaverhead
079	PENSTEMON LEMHIENSIS LEMHI BEARDTONGUE	G3	S2	No trail	SENSITIVE	004S012W 29	Beaverhead
036	THYMALLUS ARCTICUS MONTANUS MONTANA ARCTIC GRAYLING	G5T2	S1	C	SENSITIVE	005S011W 04	Beaverhead
130	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T3	S3	1	SENSITIVE	005S012W 04	Beaverhead
005	HAPLOPAPPUS MACRONEMA VAR MACRONEMA DISCOID GOLDENWEED	G4T4	S1		SENSITIVE	005S012W 28	Beaverhead
032	PENSTEMON LEMHIENSIS LEMHI BEARDTONGUE	G3	S2		SENSITIVE	005S012W 30	Beaverhead
	PENSTEMON LEMHIENSIS LEMHI BEARDTONGUE	G3	S2		SENSITIVE	005S012W 08	Beaverhead
016	CAREX PARRYANA SSP IDAHOA IDAHO SEDGE	G2Q	S2		SENSITIVE	005S012W 31	Beaverhead
034	AEGOLIUS FUNEREUS BOREAL OWL	G5	S3S4		SENSITIVE	005S013W 31	Beaverhead
129	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T3	S3		SENSITIVE	005S013W 34	Beaverhead
128	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T3	S3		SENSITIVE	006S012W 14	Beaverhead
141	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T3	S3		SENSITIVE	006S012W 05	Beaverhead
066	PENSTEMON LEMHIENSIS LEMHI BEARDTONGUE	G3	S2		SENSITIVE	006S013W 8	Beaverhead
003	PEROGNATHUS PARVUS GREAT BASIN POCKET MOUSE	G5	S2S4			007S012W 15	Beaverhead
127	ONCORHYNCHUS CLARKI LEWISI WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT TROUT	G4T3	S3		SENSITIVE	007S014W 12	Beaverhead

20 Records listed.

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 7, 1996

TO: John Hinshaw, Environmental Information Specialist

FROM: Bob Walker, State Trails Programs Coordinator *Bob*

SUBJECT: Biological & Conservation Data System - Dillon, Wise
River and Wisdom Snowmobile Trails

We are requesting location information for threatened, endangered and sensitive species for the aforementioned snowmobile trails as per the accompanying Township, Range and Section information. This information allows us to have the least impact possible with our snowmobile grant program and satisfies conditions of the Snowmobile Grant PEIS.

We are requesting maps and element occurrence for the locations identified in the accompanying table. If more information is necessary, please contact me at 4585. Thanks again for your assistance!

NRIS INFORMATION FOR
DILLON, WISE RIVER & WISDOM SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

T	R	SECTIONS
<u>DILLON</u>		
6S	13W	2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18
5S	12W	(4) 5, 6, 7, (8), 9, 18, 19
5S	13W	25, 35, 36
4S	12W	2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, (29), 32, 33
4S	13W	3, 7, 8, 9
3S	12W	4, 5, 6, 8, (17), 19, 21, 28, 33, 34
2S	12W	10, 15, 22, 27, 33
<u>WISE RIVER</u>		
1S	10W	17, 20, 29, 30
1S	11W	25, 26, 35, 36
2S	11W	2
6S	13W	2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18
6S	14W	13, 24, 25, 36
7S	14W	1, 11, 12, 14, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32
7S	15W	35, 36
8S	15W	2, 11, 14, 21, 23, 27, 28
<u>WISDOM</u>		
3S	13W	1, 2, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 35
3S	14W	5, 8, 9, 16, 22, 23, 25, 26, 36
4S	14W	1, 12

(H) cutthroat
(S) plant

veg

cut

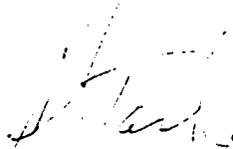
May 23, 1985

Beaverhead Snow Riders Club
Billon, Montana

To Whom It May Concern:

Permission is granted to the Beaverhead Snow Riders Club to use the trail known as Comet Ridge Road, that goes through section 5-R 12W-T55, owned by the Grasshopper Herding Association, a Montana Corporation.

Yours Truly,



Grasshopper Herding Assoc.
Polaris, Montana
H. S. Tash, Pres.

Beaverhead Sno-Riders
P.O. Box 867
Dillon, MT 59725

Index number 05

***** CLUB COPY *****

Date 3/24/90

I/WE do hereby allow the Beaverhead Sno-Riders to maintain a snowmobile trail across my/our property.

Description of the area to be groomed:

T6S, R13W Sec. 2, 3, 10, 15 ; T5S, R13W Sec. 25, 35, 36
T5S, R12W Sec. 7, 18, 30

It is understood that the trail will open to all without bias as the Beaverhead Sno-Riders do not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, or marital status, physical or mental handicap, or national origin.

As a property owner you are protected by the Montana Code Annotated; section 70-16-302, and the 1987 Snowmobilers Responsibility and Liability Law (23-2-651 through 23-2-656 of the Montana Codes Annotated). Copies of these laws are located in the attachments.

This agreement will be in effect until such a time as the landowner cancels this agreement by written notification to the Beaverhead Sno-Riders at the above address.

Circi S. Raney by E. A. C. C. C.

Landowner

Don Ford

Beaverhead Sno-Riders

Attachments:

- Map of area to be groomed
- MCA 23-2-651 thru 23-2-656
- MCA 70-16-302

Beaverhead Sno-Riders
P.O. Box 867
Dillon, MT 59725

Index number 04

***** CLUB COPY *****

Date 22 Nov '90

I/WE do hereby allow the Beaverhead Sno-Riders to maintain a snowmobile trail across my/our property.

Description of the area to be groomed:

T6s, R13W Sec. 14, 15, 16
T5S, R13W Sec. 19, 24, 25, 30

It is understood that the trail will open to all without bias as the Beaverhead Sno-Riders do not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, or marital status, physical or mental handicap, or national origin.

As a property owner you are protected by the Montana Code Annotated; section 70-16-302, and the 1987 Snowmobilers Responsibility and Liability Law (23-2-651 through 23-2-656 of the Montana Codes Annotated). Copies of the these laws are located in the attachments.

This agreement will be in effect until such a time as the landowner cancels this agreement by written notification to the Beaverhead Sno-Riders at the above address.

Tash Livestock Co
by [Signature]
Landowner

[Signature]
Beaverhead Sno-Riders

Attachments:
Map of area to be groomed
MCA 23-2-651 thru 23-2-656
MCA 70-16-302

Beaverhead Sno-Riders
P.O. Box 867
Dillon, MT 59725

Index number 03

***** CLUB COPY *****

Date 3/10/90

I/WE do hereby allow the Beaverhead Sno-Riders to maintain a snowmobile trail across my/our property.

Description of the area to be groomed:

T6S, R14W, Sections 13, 14, 24, 25

It is understood that the trail will open to all without bias as the Beaverhead Sno-Riders do not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, or marital status, physical or mental handicap, or national origin.

As a property owner you are protected by the Montana Code Annotated; section 70-16-302, and the 1987 Snowmobilers Responsibility and Liability Law (23-2-651 through 23-2-656 of the Montana Codes Annotated). Copies of the these laws are located in the attachments.

This agreement will be in effect until such a time as the landowner cancels this agreement by written notification to the Beaverhead Sno-Riders at the above address.

L. C. Levestock Co
By Reed L. Butcher, Mgr.
Landowner

Don Hand
Beaverhead Sno-Riders

Attachments:

Map of area to be groomed
MCA 23-2-651 thru 23-2-656
MCA 70-16-302

BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS
MAVERICK MOUNTAIN SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

The Beaverhead Sno-Riders are requesting permission to establish during the winter months, a snowmobile trail across the corner of property owned by Bill Tash, R-12-W -- T-5-S Sec. 5. At the clubs expense a 14' access will be fenced with a gate leading from the Bull Field to U.S. Forest property.

Approved by owner

Tash. T. Dammell Hayesback Inc.
By William T. Tash Pres

Bill Tash

9/30/93

9/30/93

BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS
MAVERICK MOUNTAIN SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

The Beaverhead Sno-Riders are requesting permission to establish during the winter months, a snowmobile trail across what is known as the Bull Field, on R-12 W -- T 5-S Sec. 8. At the clubs expense we will install gates with brace posts on the east and west sites of the Bull Field.

Approved by the Grasshopper
Grazing Association

Deight Harrison Sec.
Deight Harrison

Harry Tash, Pres.
Harry Tash

Bill Tash
Bill Tash

Beaverhead Sno-Riders
P.O. Box 867
Dillon, MT 59725

Index number 10

*** CLUB COPY ***

November 25, 1995

Beaverhead County does hereby allow the Beaverhead Sno-Riders to maintain a snowmobile trail on the county property described below. This permission to groom does not violate any NEPA/MEPA or travel restrictions that are known of at this time. This is the same as has been groomed in the past as was authorized by resolution in about 1988.

Description of the area to be groomed:

In the right-of-way along the side the Wise River-Polaris road in the vicinity of the Grasshopper Inn and Dick McCracken's home in the Grasshopper Valley.

It is understood that the trail will open to all without bias as the Beaverhead Sno-Riders do not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, political ideas, sex, age, or marital status, physical or mental handicap, or national origin.

As a property owner you are protected by the Montana Code Annotated; section 70-16-302, and the 1987 Snowmobilers Responsibility and Liability Law (23-2-651 through 23-2-656 of the Montana Codes Annotated). Copies of the these laws are located in the attachments.

This agreement will be in effect until such a time as the landowner cancels this agreement by written notification to the Beaverhead Sno-Riders at the above address.

Randall A. Tommenup
County Commissioner

Ken Heberling
Beaverhead Sno-Riders

Attachments:
Map of area to be groomed
MCA 23-2-651 thru 23-2-656
MCA 70-16-302

Management Area #8 (366,740 acres).

(This acreage excludes the acres assumed to be within Management Areas 11 and 12, riparian Management Areas).

Description

Management Area #8 consists of areas to be managed to provide a wide array of dispersed recreation opportunities; with high wildlife and fisheries values. Generally, the recreation opportunities are integrally interwoven with the wildlife and fisheries resources (opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation); however, in most areas, there are also opportunities for viewing spectacular scenery, solitude, and physical challenges. Hiking, horseback riding, recreational driving, motorcycle riding, snowmobiling, rock climbing, cross country skiing, and camping are some of the recreational activities that can take place. In some portions of the Management Area, domestic livestock grazing within existing allotments is a significant and compatible use. Management Area #8 encompasses nonforest, noncommercial forest, and forested areas. The areas are not suitable for timber management for bio-physical reasons or because of conflicts with Management Area goals. Therefore, timber harvest is not scheduled. Mineral and energy resource potential is very high in some portions of this Management Area with historic and ongoing exploration and development activities.

A more site-specific description of the areas included within this Management Area follows:

West Pioneers (161,332 acres) -- located in the West Pioneers Mountain Range. This area is recommended for nonwilderness through the Montana Wilderness Study Act Environmental Impact Statement and provides opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation. The area is well-used throughout the summer and fall, with snowmobile use in the winter. Wildlife habitat values are high, providing for a population of mountain goats, moose, deer, bear, and elk. The area is gently rolling and forested, with lakes that hold trout and grayling populations. Domestic livestock grazing occurs within existing allotments. Mineral resource potential is high to very high throughout most of the area.

West Big Hole (40,304 acres) -- located adjacent to the southern end of the Proposed West Big Hole Wilderness. The area surrounds the Miner Lake developed campground and provides semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities throughout the year. The area is forested with interspersed open parks and a backdrop formed by the spectacular peaks of the Big Hole Mountain Range. Domestic livestock grazing occurs in existing allotments, generally at a low intensity of management and in the lower elevations. Wildlife values are high. Mineral resource potential is high to very high within a portion of the area.

Garfield Mountain (28,697 acres) -- located in the southern portion of the Forest, west of Interstate 15 and south of the Clark Canyon Reservoir. Lima Peaks and Red Conglomerated Peaks constitute the most spectacular scenery in the area and can be seen from the Interstate from Monida Pass to Lima. Lower elevations are grasslands, some of which go to 9000 feet. At

Attachment D

ANNUAL OPERAT ^{Dept.}

for
Beaverhead Sno-Riders Snowmobile Club
for 19 95 - 96

We plan on providing groomed trails in the Pioneer Mnts Area area on the following schedule, from Dec 1, 1995 to April 30, 1996:

<u>Trail</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>When & How Often Groomed</u>	<u>Priority</u>
<u>As Shown on the Map</u>		<u>Weekly</u>	<u>High</u>
<u>Hwy 278 to Idaho Line</u>		<u>Bi-weekly</u>	<u>High</u>

This schedule is subject to budget, weather, and equipment breakdowns.

We shall remove, lessen, or sign known and potential hazards in cooperation with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and affected landowners. Directional and informational signs shall also be provided according to need and budget availability. We will have a safety plan detailing search and rescue, accident reporting and follow-up procedures developed prior to any trail grooming.

In the following development activities:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Target Completion Date</u>

Attached to this plan are site plans, location maps, and landowner permission in cases of development on federal lands this is an Environmental Impact Assessment completed by the managing agency).

Before any mid-season trail additions or route changes, we will:
1) Obtain, in writing, permission from any private landowner and/or land-management agency affected,
2) Consult Fish, Wildlife and Parks for wildlife and safety clearance.

For any organized special events, including competitive events, poker runs, or any activity outside of normal trail use, we will:
1) Contact the appropriate land-managing agency(ies), Forest Service and/or Bureau of Land Management, for the necessary permits,
2) Develop an event-specific safety plan.

Operations shall follow the "Development and Operating Agreement" between Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and our organization.

Club Officers

Name Bob E. Hand

Title President

Signed Bob E. Hand Date 5/30/95

Name Theresa C. Hand

Title Sec. / Treas.

Signed Theresa C. Hand Date 5/30/95

Name Don Hand

Title Exec. Director

Signed Don Hand Date 5/30/95

Name _____

Title _____

Signed _____ Date _____

Rpt/362.8B

30.3 Policy

1. A proposed action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA) only if the proposed action:

- a. Is within one of the categories in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) NEPA policies and procedures in 7 CFR part 1b.
- b. Is within a category listed in sec. 31.1b or 31.2; and there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action.
2. Extraordinary circumstances include, but are not limited to, the presence of the following:
 - a. Steep slopes or highly erosive soils.
 - b. Threatened and endangered species or their critical habitat.
 - c. Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.
 - d. Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas.
 - e. Inventoried roadless areas.
 - f. Research Natural Areas.
 - g. Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.

3. Scoping is required on all proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded. If scoping indicate that extraordinary circumstances are present and it is uncertain that the proposed action may have a significant effect on the environment, prepare an EA (ch. 40). If scoping indicates that the proposed action may have a significant environmental effect, prepare an EIS (ch. 20).

4. If an action has been sufficiently analyzed in a completed EIS or an (EA), but not approved in the appropriate decision document, issue a record of decision of a decision notice and finding of no significant impact without considering the categories in this chapter (ch. 30). If an action has been sufficiently analyzed in a completed EIS or EA and approved in the appropriate decision document, it can be implemented without considering the categories in this chapter (ch. 30).

30.5 Definitions

Categorical Exclusion. (sec. 05).

Decision Memo. (sec. 05).

Extraordinary Circumstances.

Conditions associated with a normally excluded action that are identified during scoping as potentially having effects which may significantly affect the environment (sec. 05).

31 Categories of Actions Excluded from Documentation**31.3 Categories for Which a Project or Case File and Decision Memo Are Not Required**

At the discretion of the responsible official, a project or case file and a decision memo are not required but may be prepared for the categories of actions set forth in sections 31.1a and 31.1b.

31.1a Categories Established by the Secretary

The rules at 7 CFR 1b.3 exclude from documentation in an EIS or an EA the following categories:

- (a)
 - (1) Policy development, planning and implementation which relate to routine activities, such as personnel, organizational changes, or similar administrative functions;
 - (2) Activities which deal solely with the funding of programs, such as program budget proposals, disbursements, and transfer or reprogramming of funds;
 - (3) Inventories, research activities, and studies, such as resource inventories and routine data collection when such actions are clearly limited in context and intensity;
 - (4) Educational and informational programs and activities;
 - (5) Civil and criminal law enforcement and investigative activities;
 - (6) Activities which are advisory and consultative to other agencies and public and private entities, such as legal counseling and representation;
 - (7) Activities related to trade representation and market development activities abroad. (7 CFR 1b.3)

31.1b Categories Established by the Chief

The following categories of routine administrative, maintenance, and other actions normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (sec. 05) and, therefore, may be categorically excluded from documentation in an EIS or an EA unless scoping indicates extraordinary circumstances (sec. 30.5) exist:

1. *Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR part 281—Prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety.* Examples include but are not limited to:
 - a. Closing a road to protect bighorn sheep during lambing season.
 - b. Closing an area during a period of extreme fire danger.
2. *Rules, regulations, or policies to establish Service-wide administrative procedures, program processes, or*

instructions. Examples include but are not limited to:

- a. Adjusting special use or recreation fees using an existing formula.
- b. Proposing a technical or scientific methodology or procedure for screening effects of emissions on air quality related values in Class I wilderness.
- c. Proposing a policy to defer payments on certain permits or contracts to reduce the risk of default.
- d. Proposing changes in contract terms and conditions or terms and conditions of special use authorizations.
- e. Establishing a Service-wide process for responding to offers to exchange land and agreeing on land values.
- f. Establishing procedures for amending or revising Forest Land and Resource Management Plans.

3. *Repair and maintenance of administrative sites.* Examples include but are not limited to:

- a. Mowing lawns at a District office.
- b. Replacing a roof or storage shed.
- c. Painting a building.
- d. Applying registered pesticides for rodent or vegetation control.

4. *Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries.*

Examples include but are not limited to:

- a. Authorizing a user to grade, resurface, and clean the culverts of an established National Forest System road.

b. Grading a road and clearing the roadside of brush without the use of herbicides.

c. Resurfacing a road to its original condition.

d. Pruning vegetation and cleaning culverts along a trail and grooming the surface of the trail.

e. Surveying, painting, and posting landline boundaries.

5. *Repair and maintenance of recreation sites and facilities.* Examples include but are not limited to:

- a. Applying registered herbicides to control poison ivy on infested sites in a campground.
- b. Applying registered insecticides by compressed air sprayer to control insects at a recreation site complex.
- c. Repaving a parking lot.
- d. Applying registered pesticides for rodent or vegetation control.

6. *Acquisition of land or interest in land.* Examples include but are not limited to:

- a. Accepting the donation of lands or interests in land to the National Forest System.
- b. Purchasing fee, conservation easement, reserved interest deed, or other interests in lands.

7. *Sale or exchange of land or interest in land and resources where resulting*

Attachment F

III-20

Management Area #8 (366,740 acres).

(This acreage excludes the acres assumed to be within Management Areas 11 and 12, riparian Management Areas).

Description

Management Area #8 consists of areas to be managed to provide a wide array of dispersed recreation opportunities; with high wildlife and fisheries values. Generally, the recreation opportunities are integrally interwoven with the wildlife and fisheries resources (opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation); however, in most areas, there are also opportunities for viewing spectacular scenery, solitude, and physical challenges. Hiking, horseback riding, recreational driving, motorcycle riding, snowmobiling, rock climbing, cross country skiing, and camping are some of the recreational activities that can take place. In some portions of the Management Area, domestic livestock grazing within existing allotments is a significant and compatible use. Management Area #8 encompasses nonforest, noncommercial forest, and forested areas. The areas are not suitable for timber management for bio-physical reasons or because of conflicts with Management Area goals. Therefore, timber harvest is not scheduled. Mineral and energy resource potential is very high in some portions of this Management Area with historic and ongoing exploration and development activities.

A more site-specific description of the areas included within this Management Area follows:

West Pioneers (161,332 acres) -- located in the West Pioneers Mountain Range. This area is recommended for nonwilderness through the Montana Wilderness Study Act Environmental Impact Statement and provides opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation. The area is well-used throughout the summer and fall, with snowmobile use in the winter. Wildlife habitat values are high, providing for a population of mountain goats, moose, deer, bear, and elk. The area is gently rolling and forested, with lakes that hold trout and grayling populations. Domestic livestock grazing occurs within existing allotments. Mineral resource potential is high to very high throughout most of the area.

West Big Hole (40,304 acres) -- located adjacent to the southern end of the Proposed West Big Hole Wilderness. The area surrounds the Miner Lake developed campground and provides semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities throughout the year. The area is forested with interspersed open parks and a backdrop formed by the spectacular peaks of the Big Hole Mountain Range. Domestic livestock grazing occurs in existing allotments, generally at a low intensity of management and in the lower elevations. Wildlife values are high. Mineral resource potential is high to very high within a portion of the area.

Garfield Mountain (28,697 acres) -- located in the southern portion of the Forest, west of Interstate 15 and south of the Clark Canyon Reservoir. Lima Peaks and Red Conglomerated Peaks constitute the most spectacular scenery in the area and can be seen from the Interstate from Monida Pass to Lima. Lower elevations are grasslands, some of which go to 9000 feet. At

mid elevations are parks interspersed with timberlands. At high elevations are rocky alpine habitats. This area affords good opportunities for solitude and fall hunting, providing nonmotorized semi-primitive recreation opportunities, with motorized access provided on the fringes of the area. Elk summer and winter range values are high. This area is very important range for domestic livestock grazing, with intensive range management occurring throughout the area. Oil and gas potential is very high.

Snowcrest (63,112 acres) -- encompassing the upper elevations and west slopes of the Snowcrest Mountain Range. The area is characterized by grass/sage lands with timbered drainages at the lower elevations; timberlands and interspersed parks at mid elevations; and rocky escarpments at upper elevations. Wildlife values (elk, mule deer, and mountain goats) are very high. This area provides mostly nonmotorized semi-primitive recreation opportunities, including viewing wildlife and scenery, solitude and, in the fall, quality hunting opportunities. Cross country hiking is not difficult. This area is very important range for domestic livestock grazing, with intensive range management occurring throughout the area. Oil and gas potential is very high. Phosphate potential is very high within a portion of the area.

Morrison Lake (8,504 acres) -- located along the Continental Divide, north of the Italian Peaks Wilderness (Proposed), west of Morrison Lake. The area is characterized by grass/sage lands with timbered drainages. The headwaters of the drainages are steep walled, with colorful rock formations. There are places where it is relatively easy to get up on the Continental Divide itself by traveling the open grassland ridges. This area affords excellent opportunities for cross country travel and solitude with rugged, pristine scenery. Recreation opportunities are semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized. Elk summer range values are very high. This area is important range for domestic livestock grazing, especially at the lower elevations. Oil and gas potential is very high.

Minneopa Lake (8,922 acres) -- located adjacent to the Torrey Mountain Wilderness (Proposed) on the eastern slopes of the East Pioneers Mountain Range. The area contains twelve lakes, all but one of which support a fishery. The area is generally forested with lodgepole. Semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities are provided in most of the area, with roaded, natural appearing opportunities along the road in Birch Creek and in the lower Rattlesnake Creek area. This area includes much of the Dillon municipal watershed (Rattlesnake Creek). The area is well used in the summer and fall for hiking and fishing; in the winter, cross country skiing and snowmobiling occurs. Mineral exploration and development has and continues to occur in much of the area. There is a small amount of domestic livestock grazing in existing allotments.

Tobacco Roots (61,100 acres) -- located in the Tobacco Roots Mountain Range, northwest of Sheridan and east of Pony. This area is very rugged with high, sharp peaks and glacial lakes. Extensive mining activity has occurred in the past and is ongoing, resulting in primitive jeep trails, mine haul roads, and mine sites in many areas. Mineral resource potential is high to very high. Along the Mill Creek Road, entering the area from the west, are located three developed campgrounds. Major accesses from the east are Willow Creek and North and South Meadow Creeks. Recreational

Recreation Facilities Construction, Reconstruction and Maintenance

System trails will be maintained and reconstructed as necessary to accommodate expected use. Maintenance levels will be guided by the ROS classification assigned to the area.

In the Garfield Mountain, Snowcrest, and Morrison Lake areas, the predominant mode of travel is expected to be cross country hiking and this will guide the level of investment in maintenance of a trail system.

Area rehabilitation will occur if resource damage from public use occurs. Year round or seasonal area closures may be used to alleviate adverse impacts that may be associated with motorized vehicle use.

West Big Hole, Minneopa, Tobacco Roots, West Pioneers -- Recreation facilities such as trailhead facilities, shelters, and toilets will be permitted to preserve or enhance recreation opportunities or to protect other resources. New construction will be consistent with maintenance of the ROS classification for the area.

Snowcrest, Morrison Lake, Garfield Mountain -- Construction of recreation facilities will not be permitted.

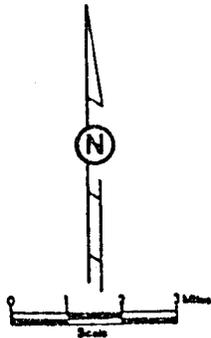
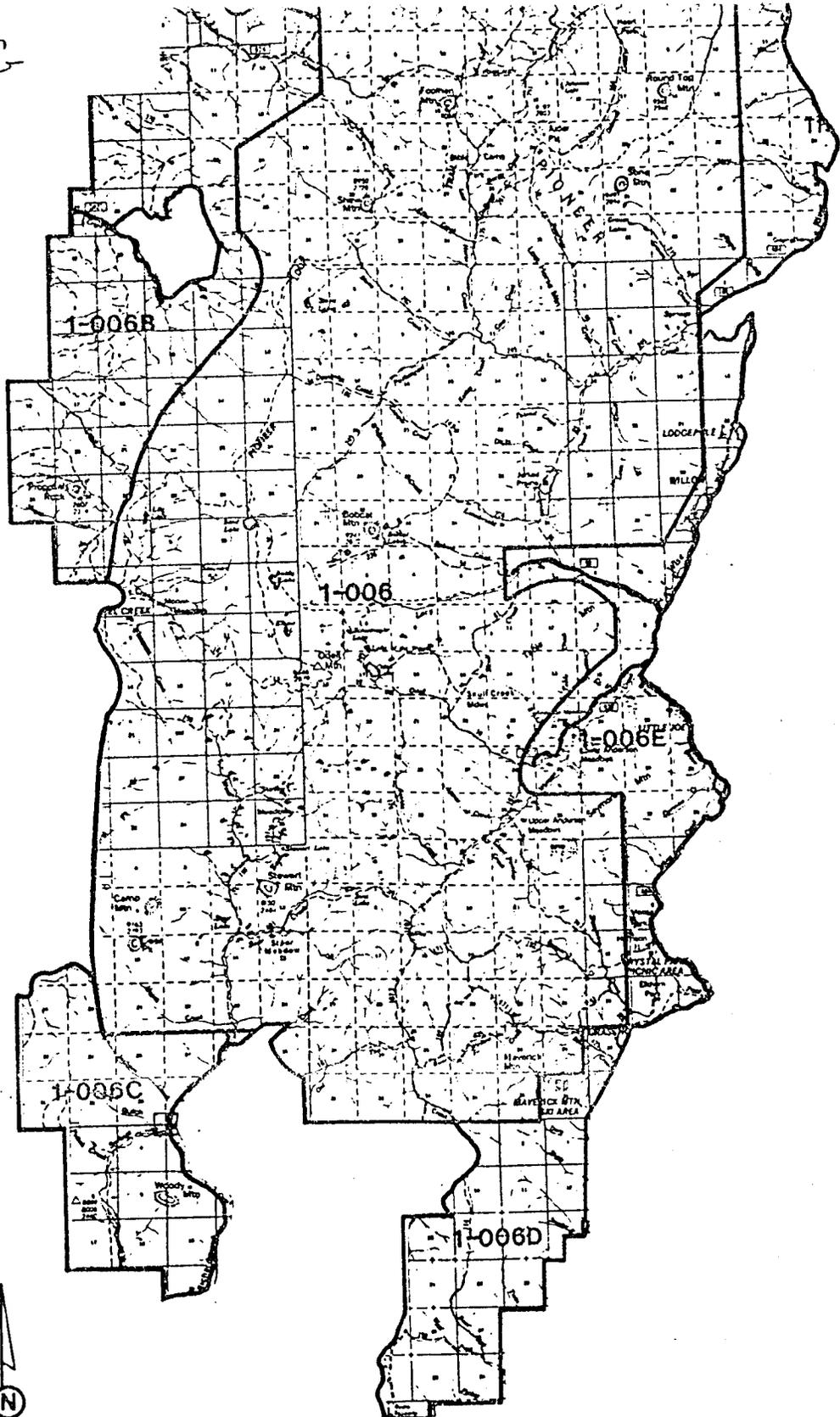
Visual Quality - The visual quality objective for this Management Area is partial retention unless a portion of the Management Area is specifically recognized as a "sensitive viewing area" and identified in Appendix D. In that case, the VQO may be higher. Direction for "sensitive viewing areas" is contained in Appendix D.

RANGERange management

West Pioneers, West Big Hole, Tobacco Roots, Minneopa -- Grazing will be allowed on existing allotments within approved management systems. Site specific conflicts between range and recreation will be resolved in allotment management plans. Livestock distribution and/or season of use may be modified to ensure compatibility of livestock grazing and recreational use of the area.

Garfield Mountain, Snowcrest, Morrison Lake -- Intensive grazing will be maintained on existing allotments within approved management systems through the use of cultural practices and vegetative manipulation that includes prescribed burning to maintain or enhance forage production and species composition. Site specific conflicts between range and recreation will be addressed in allotment management plans. Livestock use of the range forage in these areas is recognized as a significant resource use that guides the types of recreation experiences and settings afforded by the area.

Range improvements - Range improvements, such as salting, water developments, fencing and so on may be implemented to disperse livestock use and achieve range management objectives. The range management



West

PIONEER PLANNING

Roadless Areas

Appendix 4:
Enforcement Plan & Enforcement Report

LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN

This plan integrates six enforcement strategies to generate compliance with public lands' travel restriction and state snowmobile regulations. Execution of these strategies will be a cooperative effort between enforcement agents from the U. S. Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), and counties. These strategies are intended to meet each agency's enforcement mission and objectives for resource protection and public safety.

- # The initial approach for enforcing travel restrictions is the signing of trail heads. Prominently posted trail head information and maps will define travel restrictions on lands adjacent to established groomed trail systems. The trail grooming sponsor will, with the assistance from the land managing agency, post the travel restriction regulations.
- # Local motorized clubs will annually inform their membership of travel restrictions next to established and maintained trail systems. Club members will be encouraged to disseminate the information to visiting back country users.
- # To regularly ascertain the highest concentration of use; random trail patrols will occur. Trail safety will be encouraged through public contacts during patrols.
- # Enforcement efforts will target locations where there are motorized intrusions into restricted travel areas, such as tree plantations. Speed limit signing and patrols will be made.
- # Back country use will be monitored through coordination of interagency enforcement personnel. FWP and Forest Service staff will share information and combine efforts to conduct saturation enforcement activities at known high use locations and during high use periods. Normally these periods are weekends, holidays and after new snow occurrences.
- # FWP wardens will enforce the registration decal compliance law.

Trail patrols will be done on days when environmental conditions and/or budgets allow. Safety of agency personnel will also be a determining factor when patrols will occur. Rapidly changing environmental conditions and potential avalanche hazards must be considered before conducting patrols.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Statewide there were 20,384 snowmobiles registered for the 1995 to 1996 registration year.

FWP wardens will continue to make safety for the public a primary goal of the enforcement effort as it relates to snowmobiling. Numerous contacts by FWP wardens in the field with snowmobilers is in regards to safety issues. The safe operation of snowmobiles, proper lighting, DUI and alcohol issues, and reckless operation are major areas of emphasis. In addition, FWP wardens are equipped with portable radios and some rescue equipment along with first aid kits for back country emergencies.

Hunting, trapping and ice fishing are other areas of recreation where snowmobile use is common. Most of these activities are conducted in area 's outside of the groomed trail systems, but FWP wardens still contact recreationists and check for registration, equipment and safe operation while checking for hunting, fishing and trapping regulations.

Other areas of concern by FWP wardens is the operation of snowmobiles in wilderness areas. The majority of snowmobilers operate in the areas that are open, but some venture into closed or wilderness areas. Safety is a major concern here because it seems that many of the slide areas are also in the remote locations.

Poker runs and races are events that attract numerous snowmobilers. These events themselves are usually not an enforcement problem, but the use of alcohol and the related operation in towns or on roadways by some before or after the event require additional FWP warden presence.

The primary objective of FWP wardens is the safe and enjoyable recreation of snowmobilers. This is accomplished through the enforcement and education efforts of FWP wardens in the field and through education classes and functions. Many of the snowmobile clubs are taking the lead in conducting these classes and FWP wardens will need to be available to assist them in their efforts to make snowmobiling a safe and enjoyable activity.

Appendix 5:
Public Awareness Plan

**Beaverhead Snowriders
PUBLIC AWARENESS PLAN**

Issue Two: Air Quality -- Item 7

In order to avoid potential air degradation we will place signs at trail heads and parking areas which will warn snowmobilers about the negative impacts of cold starts, past due tune-ups and poor oil-gas mixtures have on the pristine mountain air. Every year as a member awareness service one meeting's "Good of The Order" topic shall be proper maintenance of two-stroke engines.

We further believe that industry reforms will contribute greatly to the cleaner environment and assign the club's safety officer to be our representative to the Industry and Legislative reform committee.

Issue Three: Topography, Soils, Hydrology -- Item 12

Signs will be placed in sensitive locations as well as comments on the trail map. Informational signing "Please stay on Groomed Snowmobile Trail" in this area and "Please use bridge" signs in proper locations. Additionally appropriate safe play areas will be described on the map. Should unusual snow cover require routing changes these changes shall be made and signed during the duration of their use until snowcover returns to normal.

Alternative trailheads will be advertised on an as needed basis in order to avoid conflicts.

Issue Four: Wildlife -- Item 17

In that responsible snowmobiling requires that animals be left as undisturbed as possible during the wintering season when their resources and even their ultimate survival may require the least amount of energy expenditure as possible; snowmobilers will be encouraged to look from a distance at all wildlife. Interpretive signing in ungulate wintering areas will reflect this sediment as well as map markings and potentially future trail hosts. It is widely recognized that any ungulate-snowmobile confrontation which occurs on a groomed trail is usually very detrimental to the snowmobiler and is to be avoided whenever possible. A duplication of the harassment laws will also appear on the trail map.

Continued next page.....

Issue Five: Vegetation -- Item 21

Public Awareness Plan (Cont.)

Noxious weeds (as addressed in Appendix 11) need to be monitored in order to protect the rangeland for all species of animals. Snowmobilers may assist in this by washing snowmachines and trailers regularly throughout the season and especially before the season begins. As virtually all of our trails are on existing roadbeds with native vegetation it should take only a minimal amount of care to protect the resource.

Should an area of negative vegetative impact occur as a direct result of the grooming program; trail rerouting and detailing will occur at least until the area is refreshed.

Issue Seven: Cultural -- Item 23i

In culturally affected areas snowmobilers will be admonished to take only pictures and memories with them and leave only tracks in the snow cover behind them. The removal of items (souvenirs) or desecration of any archaeological area will be strongly discouraged. Interpretive signing and trail rerouting will occur as needed to protect these valuable resources.

Issue Eight: Safety/Private Property -- Item 24d

Private property is identified on our trail maps and trailhead signing encouraging snowmobilers to respect private property rights will be included. In sensitive areas additional signing that reminds of private property will also be included. Trail hosts will be a valuable resource in diverting potential conflicts from occurring as well.

BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS

Environmental Review
November 26, 1996

Signs & Locations

Keeping with the signing plan outlined in the Snowmobile Program Manual the Beaverhead Sno-Riders maintain a sign inventory to assist snowmobilers with safe and considerate operation of a snowmachine. It is our policy to install all necessary regulatory signing to promote safe operation of a snowmachine (i.e. Stop, Bridge Ahead, Steep Grade, ...) in addition to informational signs (i.e. Maverick Mountain Ski Area, Snowmobiles Only, ...)

In areas where wildlife populations may cause a hazard to a snowmobiler or wildlife the club will provide signs advising snowmobilers "Do Not Stop", "Deer Crossing", "Do Not Idle Your Machine Here", ... as needed.

The following are a list of the signs and locations used in past years:

STOP Signs and STOP AHEAD signs are placed at the following locations:

- 1.) At #24 as trail enters Bi-Way (one)
- 2.) At #31 each side of Bi-Way where trail crosses (two signs)
- 3.) At #32 entrance to Grasshopper Inn - East side of Bi-Way and North, South & West (4 signs)
- 4.) at #35 North and South of Highway 278 (two Signs)

STEEP GRADE signs

Top and bottom of hill south of #29 (two Signs)

NARROW BRIDGE signs

Each side of Wellman creek Bridge between #30 and #31 (two Signs)

SNOWMOBILE ONLY signs

At #30

At #24

East of #32 going south from store

MAVERICK SKI AREA sign

at intersection of Maverick trail and barrow pit trail between #31 and #32

SNOWMOBILE TRAIL & GRASSHOPPER INN signs

leaving parking lot at Maverick Ski Area

(signs & locations continued next page)

BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS

Environmental Review
November 26, 1996

Signs & Locations (Continued)

ORANGE TOP STAKES

south from #34 across sections 13-24-25-36
through Anderson Meadows between #9 and #14

Orange Diamonds to prevent lost snowmobilers and provide clear trail marking as needed.

The new signs as a result of the EA are as follows:

**ANIMAL WINTERING AREA REMAIN ON TRAIL
PLEASE DO NOT IDLE YOUR MACHINE
PRIVATE PROPERTY PLEASE STAY ON TRAIL
ACCESS TRAIL ONLY STAY ON TRAIL**

These will be posted in appropriate locations as procured.

BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS

Environmental Review

August 1, 1996

Litter Remediation

Litter will be addressed on the new maps with a **"Pack it In Pack it Out"** strategy in addition to admonishing snowmobilers to clean-up after other not so courteous snowmobilers. If every snowmobiler would carry a trash bag and use it properly; many trash related problems would not exist.

During special events trash cans will be placed and maintained by club members or delegates. After the event, trash & receptacles will be removed. Club members are encouraged to patrol for trash in order to keep the trail system clean and safe for all.

Appendix 6:

Fun Run

BEAVERHEAD SNO-RIDERS

Environmental Review

August 1, 1996

Fun Ride

The club has one ride per year. Past fun rides averaged 120 sleds using our groomed trails. This number should increase as the public awareness increases.

Safety plan - Radios, First Aid Equipment, Stretcher Trailer and Snow machines are located at the midway point in the course. Check points have personnel to assist if needed. Each checkpoint has a fire or an enclosed structure for warming if needed. Trail is signed per signing standard and additional temporary flagging is placed along trail to assist riders.

In the past, Fun Rides have started and finished at the Grasshopper Inn, Polaris, MT. or the Elkhorn Hot Springs Lodge. They have added extra help - usually; one to three people for a couple of hours to serve food and beverages on the day of the Fun Ride.