

SNOWMOBILE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Current Condition

The Beartooth Ranger District has limited opportunities for quality snowmobile recreation. This is due to limited access, the presence of steep and rugged geographical features and terrain, un-reliable and inconsistent winter snow pack and large areas of designated National Forest wilderness.

Most recreational snowmobile use on the Ranger District is concentrated on the Main and West Forks of Rock Creek along existing roads. The Picket Pin Road is fairly popular as well and affords access to the Gallatin National Forest. The Beartooth

Highway at the Quad Creek winter trailhead allows experienced snowmobile riders access to the Beartooth Plateau, Shoshone National Forest and Cooke City, Montana.

Desired Condition

Continue to allow snowmobile activities as in the past subject to existing closures and winter snow pack conditions. Increase the management of snowmobile use in areas where activities can potentially conflict with other resource values such as the Wild Horse Range or winter elk habitat areas.

Travel Management Strategy

Provide for managed snowmobile recreation opportunities where terrain and snow conditions permit.

Forest Management Direction

Forest Plan direction for snowmobile use is defined in only Management Area C which states, "Vehicles including snowmobiles may be restricted on big game winter range as needed to meet wildlife needs."

The table below summarizes the change in acres from the existing travel management plan.

Label	Name	Existing Travel Plan Reference	Rationale or Comments	Existing Acres with Snowmobile Restriction	Proposed Acres with Snowmobile Restriction
STM1	Meyers Creek-Bad Canyon	Unit 3 – Trout Creek-Bad Canyon Unit 4 – Castle Creek-Meyers Creek		37,640	0
STM2	Stillwater Mine-Benbow-Fishtail	Unit 7 – Upper Benbow, Stillwater Mine Unit 10 – Fishtail Creek		31,590	0
STM3	Around Mystic Lake	Forest Land Management Area H	Recommended for wilderness	300	300
STM4	Burnt Fork Creek	Forest Land Management Area H	Recommended for wilderness	3,980	3,980
STM5	Red Lodge Mtn Ski Area	Unit 16 - Red Lodge Mtn Ski Area		830	830
STM6	Nichols Creek West	Unit 13 - Nichols Creek Elk Range	Restrictions for wildlife habitat management (Elk Winter Range)	6920	6920
STM7	Timberline Creek	Forest Land Management Area H	Recommended for wilderness	800	800
STM8	Wapiti Mtn	Unit 14 – Lower West Fork and Main Fork Rock Creek	Restrictions for wildlife habitat management (Elk Winter Range)	9,550	9,550
STM9	West Fork Rock Creek		Restrictions for wildlife habitat management (Elk Winter Range)	0	11,330
STM10	Beartooth Plateau Extension	Forest Land Management Area H	Recommended for wilderness	875	875
STM11	Line Creek	Line Creek RNA Unit 14 – Line Creek Face	Research Natural Area Restrictions for wildlife habitat management (Elk & Other Wildlife Winter Range)	23,500	23,500
STM12	Old Glory and Sandra Mines	Special Area Closure	Area contains high levels of uranium and radioactivity	470	470
STM13	Lost Water Canyon – Wild Horse	Unit 18 – Lost Water Canyon-Wild Horse Range in Pryor Mtns	Research Natural Area Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range management	11,210	11,210
Total Acres with Snowmobile Restriction				127,665	69,765