

Winter Use Plan Draft EIS
P. O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Dear Planning Team:

I am writing in support of continued snowmobiling access to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway. I am opposed to Alternatives 2, 3 and 6 since they would not provide adequate access for the winter experience I desire. I ask that you consider a final management plan that blends several pieces of Alternatives 1, 4 and 5 to reflect the following:

Requiring that 100% of snowmobile visitors in Yellowstone be led by a commercial guide is undesirable and has proven to be detrimental to providing an adequate level of winter visitor use in the park. Please consider allowing up to 20% of daily entries to be led by non-commercial Certified Group Leaders who have taken a short certification course and would be responsible for managing their groups. If it is necessary to reduce group size and overall daily snowmobile limits in Yellowstone to 500 to 600 per day to accomplish this – that is acceptable and better than having 720 entries per day allocated exclusively to commercial use. Certified Groups would still be heavily regulated and be very different than historic unguided access. Yellowstone is a public park and access should not be relegated to being only through commercial businesses.

Winter use in Grand Teton and the Parkway deserves to be considered on its own merits versus being drug along by Yellowstone issues. In particular, allowing only BAT snowmobiles to be used in these parks is an overbearing, pointless limitation. Please consider allowing EPA Compliant Snowmobiles to be operated on the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail, since this trail is immediately adjacent to plowed highways used by other motor vehicles, as well as for fishing access on Jackson Lake and operation in both directions on the Grassy Lake Road. If it is necessary to reduce group size and overall daily snowmobile limits or to limit the number of daily groups to accomplish this – that is acceptable and better than having 140 entries per day allocated that are essentially useless since BAT snowmobiles are generally unavailable for use in this area by the general public who desire to connect to adjacent national forest trails.

I do not support seasonal entry limits and believe that winter use is best managed by daily entry limits.

The East Entrance to Yellowstone is important and should be kept open to all winter visitors, including snowmobilers and snowcoach riders. Park managers should continue to provide avalanche control by the use of improved modern technology and practices. Additionally, it would be irresponsible to allow skiers and snowshoers to continue using Sylvan Pass if it is closed and not groomed for motor vehicles since, unmanaged, it would create an extreme liability to recreationists and the park.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Printed Name	Signature
--------------	-----------

Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code
-----------------	------	-------	----------