



WILDEARTH VICTORY

Giving Lynx the Freedom to Be Wild

Dear Guardian,

We're excited to announce that a **new Forest Service plan regulating winter motorized recreation reigns in rampant snowmobile use that threatens iconic winter wildlife such as lynx, wolverines, and grizzlies.**

Snowmobiles also wreak havoc on those of us who enjoy the quiet and solitude of a beautiful winter landscape.

Our sustained pressure, including your emails, achieved a huge victory when the Forest Service released its final over-snow vehicle management rule last week. **Once implemented in a few months, the rule sets the stage to explicitly close all areas to snowmobiles unless specifically designated open.** In the past, it has been the opposite: generally, unless the Forest Service took specific measures to close an area to winter motorized recreation, it was considered open to any and all uses.

This translates to **80 million acres of national forests in the west that could be closed to snowmobiles** after each forest adopts the rule. That would add to the 35 million acres already protected from snowmobile use—most of that in wilderness, where no mechanized uses are allowed.

The rule still has its loopholes. One is that the areas designated for snowmobile use can be huge: hundreds of thousands of acres. Another is that old Forest Service decisions on snowmobile use can get grandfathered into the rule. We'll be watching closely to ensure these loopholes aren't abused.

Getting this rule in place is a big achievement for us, but now the work really begins. It will take several years for every national forest across the west to implement the rule, and our [Rewilding Campaign](#) team will be right there to make sure they do it right!

For the Wild,



photo credit: Keith Williams

Lynx and wolverines are just two species that suffer from unregulated snowmobile use.



photo credit: Jeffrey C. Lewis

Read the [Final Rule](#) for yourself.

Donate Now!





Bryan Bird
Wild Place Program Director
WildEarth Guardians
bbird@wildearthguardians.org

WildEarth Guardians' mission is to protect and restore the wildlife, wild places, wild rivers, and health of the American West.

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MAIN OFFICE: 516 Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501 p) 505.988.9126 f) 505.213.1895
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