



Cody Country Snowmobile Association
P.O. Box 1745
Cody, Wy 82414

March 20, 2023

Re: Outdoor Recreation Enhancement Study

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to you regarding the “Outdoor Recreation Enhancement Study”. When we interpret this proposal, we get the impression that almost all of their Part (2) Visitor Recreation Access Survey work would be carried out in the immediate Cooke City area. There is no mention of Pilot Creek or the Beartooth vicinities to ensure Wyoming's interests are adequately considered. To our association, that’s a huge question mark as to why Park County, WY should contribute anything financially or otherwise. Additionally, we find their plan to sample in-person visitors only 2 weeks out of the entire winter season is very questionable. What 2 weeks? How and where? That is not a good random sample for a 4+ month long season. If they don’t pick the right 2 weeks of typical peak use, they will get inaccurate information.

We are very concerned about trail and parking consideration versus only road access (at bottom of page 7 it only mentions “benefits of different road access scenarios” – this clearly does not intend to dive into alternate trail access). We have worked very hard with the POP committee to look at Hwy 212 in the wintertime. If the Hwy was plowed, we would need a new trail to connect Wy and Mt. We would also need to focus on a new parking area in Cooke City. This also does not study or consider the deep concerns of our Sheriff's department, Search and Rescue, and the Highway Department for safety and safe travels during the winter months. The study sadly spends a lot of time focusing on Cooke City and I guess it should since the point of financial gain is in Montana.

It would be very interesting to see if the study would look at and/or recognize the 2020-2021 University of Wyoming's winter snowmobile study already done. Our membership travels Hwy 212 weekly and we know how difficult the winter road conditions can be. We are very cautious on the motives of big business pushing the road plowing and it seems to bring visitors to Yellowstone for Wolf watching. We would also think that Yellowstone Park Superintendent Cam Sholly would have some strong issues to focus on in this study.

We fully understand economics, but a study should encompass all shareholders and not just big business. We are fully ready to discuss many different options: the road not plowed, road plowed with a new trail (to replace the 9 miles) and a new parking area in Cooke City for a proper balance. We would like to see options for a win/win for all folks who love winter sports as much as we do. We do not want to see a study that only fits big business and divides our community as this has done in Cooke City.

Thank you so much,

Cody Country Snowmobile Association Board of Directors
Lynn Lamb
Bert Miller
Tim Erz
Eric Alexander