



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Fortine Ranger District  
Fortine, MT 59918

Reply to

Date: January 28, 1982

Mike Baker  
Box 67  
Kalispell, MT 59901

I would like to request your services in maintaining approximately 25 to 30 miles of snowmobile trail on the Grave Creek Road and into Ten Lakes Scenic Area. This has long been a route used by both local snowmobilers and by groups from the Kalispell and Libby areas. We have been attempting to develop a snowmobile program for several years and I appreciate your visit to the District today.

(Please consider this as permission or authorization that you need to use your equipment and to maintain this trail. The lower portion of the route may require the movement of your snowgroomer and associated equipment over a plowed road. This road is a Forest Service facility and you have my permission to use your machines on this plowed portion. Total distance involved will be about a mile and a half; however, traffic is light and I do not think you will encounter any difficulties.

We look forward to meeting with you on either the 8th or 9th. As we discussed today, if you can give us some notice, we will accompany you along the route so that you can get a feel for the situation and determine for yourself what our needs are.

I sincerely hope that we can develop a program that would allow you to give us another maintenance trip either late in February or the first of March and another again late in March. This schedule would work very well for us and would fit local use patterns.

We will attempt to come up with a traffic counter to get some estimate of the amount of use that we receive. Hopefully we will be able to find one in the Supervisor's Office or in the Engineer's Office; however, if we are unsuccessful we may take you up on your offer to see if you could find one for us.

Your ability to help us with our grooming program will be a major step in developing the winter recreational facility that we are trying to establish on the Grave Creek Road. Your grooming meshes nicely with our plans to



T10-7

develop a parking area, unloading ramps, interpretive signs and the other things that we hope to have operational by next year.

Between our two agencies, I think that we can develop something that people in the northern portion of Lincoln County and in the Kalispell-Whitefish-Columbia Falls area will be able to enjoy and take advantage of.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



JOHN W. PRITCHARD  
District Ranger