

**From:** [Martinez, Beth H -FS](#)  
**To:** [Wilkinson, Kathryn K -FS](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Comment on Stanislaus National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) Use Designation #46311  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 10, 2018 9:02:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [SAC Comment on Stanislaus NF OSV Use Designation #46311.pdf](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

---

Hi Katie —

Hope all is well! Please see attached!

Beth

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mark Bunge <[mark@sierraavalanchecenter.org](mailto:mark@sierraavalanchecenter.org)>  
**Date:** October 10, 2018 at 12:47:18 AM PDT  
**To:** [bethmartinez@fs.fed.us](mailto:bethmartinez@fs.fed.us)  
**Subject:** Comment on Stanislaus National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) Use Designation #46311

Dear Ms. Martinez,

Attached please find a comment letter on behalf of the Sierra Avalanche Center regarding your review of the current OSV use designations within the Stanislaus National Forest.

I attempted (but failed) to submit our comments via the online portal, most likely due to user error on my part. My apologies if receiving this letter via email is inconvenient for you.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

All the best,  
Mark

----

Mark Bunge  
Board President  
Sierra Avalanche Center  
11260 Donner Pass Road  
Ste C1 PMB 401  
Truckee, CA 96161  
[sierraavalanchecenter.org](http://sierraavalanchecenter.org)  
916-520-4980

Mark Bunge  
Board President, Sierra Avalanche Center  
11260 Donner Pass Road  
Ste C1 PMB 401  
Truckee, CA 96161



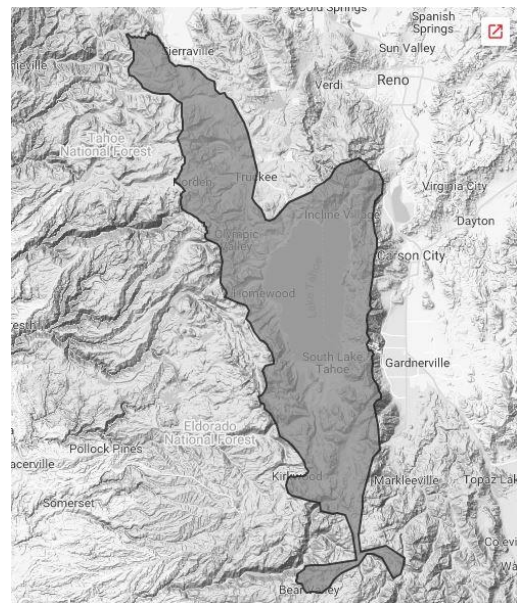
October 9, 2018

Beth Martinez  
Stanislaus National Forest All Units  
19777 Greenley Road , Sonora, CA, 95370

Dear Ms. Martinez,

The Sierra Avalanche Center is a public/private partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization known as the Sierra Avalanche Center (SAC). The Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest houses and runs the avalanche forecasting operations.

Our mission is to inform and educate the public about backcountry avalanche risks in the greater Lake Tahoe area. Our primary tool for advancing that mission is issuing a free daily avalanche advisory about backcountry avalanche conditions in our forecast region, which includes the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains between Yuba Pass in the north and Ebbetts Pass in the south (illustrated in the image to the right).



The avalanche advisory is read by 60,000-90,000 backcountry recreationalists a year (depending on snow conditions), including skiers, snowboarders, hikers, and snowmobilers, who rely on the advisory to make safe, informed decisions about backcountry travel.

The avalanche advisory is written by professional avalanche forecasters based on snowpack observations, weather conditions, and weather forecasts. An accurate avalanche advisory requires extensive snowpack observations, which are collected and submitted by our avalanche forecasters, professional avalanche observers, backcountry guides, and avalanche educators, as well as members of the general public. Our avalanche forecasters and professional observers collect snowpack data throughout our avalanche forecast area, and access backcountry terrain both on foot and by snowmobile.

Our forecasters and professional observers conduct several snowpack observations around Ebbetts Pass and Bear Valley each winter, areas that could be affected by the proposed revisions to the OSV use designations within the Stanislaus National Forest. Without stating a formal preference for or against any of the proposed alternatives, we thought it was important to note that Alternative 5 (currently the preferred alternative) would limit SAC's ability to access certain terrain off of Ebbetts Pass via snowmobile, making it harder to collect snowpack data from that portion of our forecast zone.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mark@sierraavalanchecenter.org](mailto:mark@sierraavalanchecenter.org). For more information about the Sierra Avalanche Center please visit [sierraavalanchecenter.org](http://sierraavalanchecenter.org).

Warmest regards,  
Mark Bunge

President/Director  
Sierra Avalanche Center