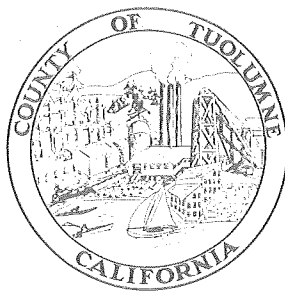


Tuolumne County
Administration Center
2 South Green Street
Sonora, California 95370



Alicia L. Jamar, *Chief Deputy*
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

Sherri Brennan, *First District*
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Karl Rodefer, *Fifth District*

May 7, 2019

Via Online Upload

Jason Kuiken, Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370

Re: Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Project Final Environmental Impact
Statement and Draft Record of Decision

Dear Supervisor Kuiken:

On October 8, 2018, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors submitted comments on the Stanislaus National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement and appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision. It is clear that significant effort was made to balance this decision while considering competing priorities and substantial public input. Overall we believe the Alternative 5-Modified is well written, balanced and thoughtful. While we do not formally object to the selection of Alternative 5-Modified as the selected alternative we do continue to have some apprehensions with the draft decision.

Increased Acreage

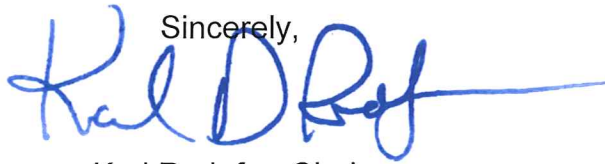
The Board of Supervisors is concerned that Alternative 5-Modified still designates significantly less acres for motorized Over-Snow Vehicle Use than Alternative 4 or the current use designation in Alternative 3. We continue to believe that authorizing additional acres for motorized use in the Final Record of Decision will actually minimize conflict not only between motorized and non-motorized users but also other activities in the forest. Specifically, we request you include the Red Rock Meadow area and other desirable OSV use locations like it in the final decision.

Snow Depth v. Snow Density

While we understand your assertion in the Draft Record of Decision that designating a 12 inch minimum snow depth requirement provides a means to minimize the likelihood of resource damage occurring due to OSV use, we continue to believe the arbitrary snow depth requirement will be nearly impossible to enforce. Admittedly in the Draft Record of Decision, monitoring and enforcement will be focused on resource damage rather than strict adherence to snow depth measurement. We believe in order to be most effective and to encourage the public to get on board with your goals of resource protection, snow density should still be considered as an alternative to minimum snow depth. We would encourage you to consider a pilot program on this forest over a 3 or 4 year period that would assess the successfulness of the snow density versus snow depth issue and which could better guide future decisions regarding protections against resource damage.

Once again, this Board would like to thank you for a well-written and thoughtful decision that considers the many uses and benefits of the forest, especially for a County such as ours, and attempts to create a use designation with balance. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Karl Rodefer, Chair
Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

ALICIA L. JAMAR
Clerk of the Board

By: _____

