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Title:

Comments: Please don't close additional areas in the Stanislaus National Forest to OSV!

I support Alternative 2, simply because it is the only alternative that keeps what's currently open. If there was an alternative opening up more areas, I would strongly support that alternative.

We often ride from the Blue Lakes' area over to Bear Valley (the only legal route to get there, of course) and it would have a great impact on my family's ability to go snowmobiling if more areas were closed to us.

The DEIS presented refers to "User Conflict" as being one of the main reasons for closing areas to OSV. I have snowmobiled in a majority of the National Forests for the past 22 years. I have NEVER witnessed or been part of any user conflict between cross country skiers and snowmobilers. There is, in my opinion, no user conflict. If you ask any of my fellow sledders, I think you would get the same response in regards to this.

I think the "User Conflict" is something that has been invented by the anti OSV groups to create a problem for the Forest Service to find a solution to.

There is no user conflict. On the contrary [mdash] I often get asked to create tracks after a storm so that the skiers and snow-showers CAN get out and recreate.

Don't let some non local user group who don't know how well we co-exist with local skiers and snowshoers dictate what the Forest Service proposes in the DEIS. It is not based in what really goes on out in the forest!

Us who recreate in these areas several times every week (year round) know for a fact that there is little to no long-term effect from snowmobiles. In the summer, you can't tell where the sleds have been because they are far above ground and does no damage. During the winter, our tracks are covered as soon as it snows, blows or melts.

Today's sleds are much more clean-burning and quiet and it seems the data used as "facts" in the DEIS is either provided by the anti OSV groups and/or very old.