

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/21/2018 7:00:00 AM

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Comments: Beth - Here are my original comments, in summary form.

I am using a snowmobile for administrative access for a monitoring project on Sierra Nevada carnivores in conjunction with both the Forest Service and UC Davis Vet Sciences, not for recreation.

- The Forest Service R-4 and Congress made a big management mistake by only including the H-T in the legislation setting up the area and use dates for the Bridgeport Winter

Recreation area. This use spills over on to the Stanislaus and STF needs to be included in the actual legislation.

- I have found numerous wilderness incursions in the Wolf Creek-Gardner Mdw-Arnot Peak area of Carson Iceberg - I have told H-T but not sure they have taken enforcement action.

- my field work has found a population of Sierra Nevada Red Fox (SNRF) in the above area.

- Again, the STF plan needs to be synched with the Toiyabe plan as users go from one forest to the other in a single trip.

- Some of the above mentioned wilderness incursion is in SNRF habitat - a species that probably will be listed in the future.

- Cate Quinn just finished her doctoral dissertation on SNRF - she should be consulted as to potential effects.

- One open question at both Sonora Pass and Carson-Iceberg is what is the effect of snowmobile use and trails on SNRF. One theory is that the packed trails allow coyotes to enter the high country, and they will prey on SNRF, but the actual effect is not clear. - You should consult with Quinn and Dr. Ben Sacks of UC Davis on this issue..

So the message for your plan is there needs to be a common management and enforcement plan with the Toiyabe Forest.

I will also mention that I am familiar with the enforcement issues as I used to be the Stanislaus patrol captain and I have spent a lot of time in the past tracking and chasing snowmobiles, especially those that entered wilderness.

Thanks. Jay

Jay H. Power

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