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Organization:

Title:

Comments: In looking at the Hgwy 4/Bear Valley area preferred alternatives, I want to highlight some changes made to what local snowmobilers have been enjoying for many years. These changes ARE NOT to anyones benefit.... Ive only been riding these areas for 5 years, but upon moving to central CA and beginning to ride the Sierra backcountry into hgwy 108/4 I quickly learned of an age old tradition of the locals gathering at the ski resort for a "locals" get together/campout/family day the weekend after the resort closed. The snow wasnt that good, spring was in full swing...but it was a bout the kids, families, friendships and comeraderie. Some families even brought RV's and camped overnight for the weekend. I wasnt a local, so I never checked it out. For the last 2 or 3 seasons I DID begin to go campout myself with my tent and sled just to goof off in the snow and get away from the valley and the masses....after all. Thats what makes this sport SO GREAT! GETTING AWAY FROM THE CROWDS AND ENJOYING OUR MOUNTAINS!

Let me pause: "Getting away from people" DOES NOT mean RESTRICTING ACCESS to other individuals who might share these areas. The USFS NEEDS to understand there ARE SOME GROUPS that make that THEIR INTENT!

My time spent at the ski resort randomly from May-July NEVER resulted in user conflict, and very little crowding other than families sledding with kids or teenage boarders getting some fun runs in by the parking lot.

I DID attend the weekend gathering in 2018 and had THE TIME OF MY LIFE! It was such a GREAT social experience uniting the locals from 108 and 4 and even some folks from down in the valley! These tradition will DIE with the new proposals. The ski resort proper should REVERT back to National Forest PUBLIC ACCESS LAND when the ski resort closes down operations for the season.

Also in the alternatives, all riding terrain north & east of the ski resort has been removed from accessibility. Horse Canyon area is a popular area for experienced riders to access backcountry riding when conditions permit. For all the land that has been proposed as removed from around the ski resort area, unless there is verifiable evidence or reason...due to EVIDENCE of USER CONFLICT or DAMAGE, these areas should be listed as NEAR NATURAL WINTER MOTORIZED ACCESS if thats the reason they were removed in the USFS preferred alternative.

ATTACHMENTS: Photographs