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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor & Staff.

I am submitting comments regarding the U.S. Forest Service's proposed new Over-snow Vehicle Management Plan. I live in Groveland, California and enjoy many recreation pursuits, including fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing. I very much value the wildness of the forest and it's quiet, peaceful places where i can still enjoy the natural world and recover from the pressures of a crowded, hectic, modern day California.

I am opposed to the plan which proposes to legalize the use of snowmobiles into two wild roadless areas where the Stanislaus Forest Plan currently prohibits any motorized use. I do not believe that allowing snowmobiles into these areas will be an overall benefit to the citizens of California. What percentage of the total forest users would benefit from the increased snowmobiling use by opening of the two areas? I am concerned that by allowing snowmobiles into new area, these wilderness areas will never have the chance to be preserved in the future - they will only be degraded and the memory of what we had there will be lost.

In addition, I am opposed to the plan which would allow noisy snowmobiles to intrude deep into remove habitat that is important for the Sierra Nevada red fox and American marten. The Stanislaus National Forest needs to step up and protect these species instead of facilitating their demise by introducing unnecessarily, loud and impactful noises.

If the Forest Service feels compelled to adopt some sort of new plan, I would support Alternative 3. I understand that Alternative 3 would still allow large areas of high elevation forest lands to be open to snowmobile use, but would not open roadless wild areas or critical wildlife habitat to snowmobile use.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this important topic. Please add my contact information to any future Forest Service communications regarding the Over-snow Vehicle Plan development process.