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Comments: STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST DEIS OSV COMMENTS

I am writing in response to the current DEIS OSV management plan for the Stanislaus National Forest (SNF). I am a life-long local to the area and multi-sport user of the SNF. I frequently visit numerous areas within the forest on year-round basis. This backcountry zone provides a haven to it's users both motorized and non.

I was recently given the opportunity to attend an OSV avalanche safety course in the Hwy 4 (proposed to be closed) zone with the Sierra Avalanche Center. The benefits and skills that I received from this winter backcountry training was undoubtedly priceless. Opportunities for such specific training are hard to come by and knowing that this opportunity could potentially be lost to future students/backcountry riders is unjust. These are the types of trainings are something that the community needs more of.

The loss of additional acreage to closure/wilderness zones will only create more congested areas that will have greater environmental impacts not to mention create additional user conflicts. With the SNF showing an increase in OSV registrations over the past two years it would only make sense to support the economic growth within surrounding communities. Local businesses appreciate the business! In addition, I would like to encourage the Forest Service to open the lower the gates (e.g., Hwy 108, Hwy 4) during light snow years to provide safer and smarter access to backcountry zones.

The piecemeal land use maps provided in the DEIS are hard to comprehend and will lend unsafe crossing zones (for both OSV and non-motorized recreationist) in addition to creating more environmentally destructive use patterns. Further analysis is needed to justify such a large reduction to use of the National Forest lands.

Thank you for considering my concerns,

Alanna Misico