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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on Stanislaus OSV Designation

Stanislaus Forest Planning Staff-

I am a back-country skier who has been recreating in the Bear Valley and Pinecrest areas for over 30 years. I am concerned that the preferred alternative that has been put forward for this area does not seem to take into account protection of popular ski destinations such as Osborne Hill, Mattley Ridge, and Herring Creek Rd. The Preferred Alternative 5 also allows motorized winter recreation in previously protected Near Natural areas. Thus it not only ignores the desires of non-motorized users like myself for quiet, clean enjoyment of the forest, but also will allow for disturbance of formally protected wildlife. I am asking that you reconsider your management plans for this area and choose something closer to Alternative 3. Please do not reward those who have already been trespassing in the Near Natural areas by opening them permitted motorized use now. Also please restrict motorized travel to eliminate conflicts in the popular ski and snowshoe areas of Mattley Ridge, Cabbage Patch, Osborne Hill, Big Meadow, and Herring Creek Rd along with the currently non-motorized areas of Round Valley area near Bear Valley and the Crabtree and Gooseberry areas near Dodge Ridge. In spite of the protestations of the motorized community, these areas amount to a much smaller portion of the entire typically snow-covered area of the forest being closed than would be open to motorized uses if only the areas indicated in Alternative 3 closed. Many of the closed areas in Alternative 5 are meaningless in terms of winter use because they do not receive sufficient snowfall or are so far from plowed roads that they are inaccessible in winter.

Thank you for including my comments in your considerations.

Janet Hoffmann,

Campbell, CA