

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/9/2018 7:00:00 AM

First name: Stuart

Last name: Littell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: OSV

Dear Forest Supervisor Jason Kuiken,

RE: Stanislaus National Forest Over-snow Vehicle Use Designation (46311)

Myself and my family are now and have been for generations life long Sierra Nevada Mountains forests users. The experience of enjoying the natural world in the forest has been very important to us as a family, as individuals, to our identity as people. It replenishes us to go there and relax. Our family owns two homes in the Stanislaus National Forest inside the areas affected by the Over-Snow Vehicle Designation Project 46311.

I urge the Forest Service to adopt a plan that will reduce to a minimum the use of OSV's in the Stanislaus forest.

Because of the impact of people riding OSVs, In the late 1980's, my mother stopped going to her cabin at the Cow Creek Summer Home Tract on Highway 108 during the winter months, the cabin area was being over run by OSV use in and near the cabins. The noise and exhaust from the machines, the danger of a skier being run over and the ruined vistas was too much. Today it is even more so. I find numerous spots there where OSV use over low snow, bare ground or brush has made tracks you can see year-round.

Our second family cabin is on Eagle Meadows Road(5N01). This cabin is about 15 miles out from HWY 108, near Relief Reservoir. We have the area negatively impacted by OSVs in almost every corner of the woods there, particularly in the alpine meadows and open areas up toward the ridge lines near Silvermine Creek and the Wilderness Area.

Near Natural designated areas are no place for OSV use. Many of these machines are very high powered and have 1:3 power to weight ratios. The equivalent of 1,500 horsepower in a Jeep Wrangler. The OSV activities like high marking, bowl riding, cross country riding, stunts etc. are impacting the wildlife, the quiet, the peace, the skiing, and the natural beauty in these areas and are anything but near-natural. These are very different activities from OSV trail touring or transportation for access. On a fresh powder day a 150-200 horsepower OSV can consume lots of new snow.

We are also very concerned about the impact the motorized activity has on wildlife. The cumulative effects of more and more motorized activity in the National Forest on the flora and fauna must be considered and steps taken to reduce that impact. I have had fewer and fewer sightings of the animals listed in the OSV DEIS in recent years. Haven't seen a Fisher in decades. Pine Marten, 1 in ten years, Northern Goshawk, a few, and on[hellip] Seeing these animals in the wild are an important part of going to the mountains. And seeing a forest that is healthy and not in decline, that we think will be there for future generations, is important to us.

I urge the Forest Service to adopt a regulation that will limit areas open to OSV travel to a minimum. Especially high country, cross country travel or "play". And protect this resource as a healthy system.

Our family is glad to see that there is finally an effort to address the impact of the Over-Snow Vehicle use in our area. It has been frustrating for us to be over run by these machines and not have that huge impact recognized by those who can regulate.

It seems to me that Alternative 3 or Alternative 5 would be the best compromise today.

Thanks for the efforts in the draft and the community outreach, I am glad I went to the open houses/workshops, I got to ask questions and listen to others.

Sincerely,

Stuart D. Littell

423 Ohio Ave.

Richmond, CA 94804