

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/10/2018 3:52:03 AM

First name: Lisa

Last name: Nigon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Snowmobilers don't care about the environment. That is a statement that makes my heart hurt every time I hear it. There is nothing more dear to me than the mountains, the forests and all of the trees and rivers that make them up. That is where I spend my days off, my vacations, where I bring my friends and family. How can someone think I don't love the environment when my entire life revolves around it? How can someone think that any snowmobiler doesn't also care about the place that they ride?

When I first moved to Lake Tahoe in 2006 I did not know anything about backcountry skiing or snowmobiling or how much it would become a part of my life. I had always been really into skiing, but stuck to the resorts. It wasn't until my husband purchased his first snowmobile that I experienced the backcountry for the first time. As the years past, I found myself in the ski resorts less and less and skiing the backcountry more and more. Eventually I purchased my own sled and now it is the activity I love most - spending over 60 days a season snowmobiling and skiing.

Please do not further reduce the snowmobile terrain on HWY 4 and HWY 108. In the numerous times I have been to Sonora Pass I have never seen any backcountry hikers or skiers touring in the area. Further reducing the rideable acreage will only cause congestion and force more sledders into a smaller area.

Please leave Bear Valley Ski Basin open up to the wilderness boundaries, including Jelmini & Beartrap. Please leave the Pacific Valley / Lookout Peak zone open as "Near Natural Winter Motorized Access". Please leave Sonora Pass open to snowmobiles until the 12" minimum rule is met, do NOT close when the highway is opened. Please leave Herring Loop, Eagle Meadows, Long Valley designated, Mill Creek as "Near Natural Winter Motorized Access" up to surrounding wilderness boundaries.

I know that some people say snowmobilers are too loud, or they smell. While I understand the need to experience the backcountry and its peacefulness there are so many other areas that snowmobilers currently cannot go.

If the concern is regulation charge snowmobilers more for parking and put those funds towards enforcement. And the same goes for environmental impact - charge more for parking and donate the funds to protecting the lands we all love. I would rather see increased parking fees and day access passes than areas closed.

Please do not further reduce the amount of rideable acres we have. Please hear all sides of the story. This land is indeed our land and it should be accessible to everyone.

Thank you