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Organization:

Title:

Comments: OSV

Dear Forest Supervisor Jason Kuiken,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I'm a backcountry skier and what's most important to me, even more than good snow, is the opportunity to enjoy a quiet forest. The Stanislaus can offer great opportunities for human powered recreation. But it needs a balanced winter travel plan. OSV use is fine, and can be a lot of fun from my experience, but it has to be managed in a way where non motorized areas are protected for wildlife habitat and wildness. This is winter at its finest and the Forest Service should recognize that with a balanced plan.

As you know the Stanislaus is well regarded as a place where people can enjoy skiing and snowshoeing. But in order to protect that experience for members of the public like me its important to provide non motorized recreation areas while you also provide for designated OSV areas. Please manage these areas to protect winter ecosystems and minimize user conflicts.

Alternative 5 sounds like a reasonably balanced approach, but it fails to protect a number of important nonmotorized areas.

In the final plan, please protect these areas as well from OSV use: Osborne Hill and other areas around Lake Alpine, the Herring Creek area next to the Leland Snowplay Area, Route 7N02 in Big Meadows, and some of the terrain between Black Springs, Mattley Ridge and Cabbage Patch.

Finally, it's important you protect the many sensitive species that make this area so special. The Sierra Nevada Red Fox for example. The Pacific Valley and Eagle/Night areas shouldn't be open to OSVs. there are other areas to play. These are special and important habitat.

Thank you for considering my views and for caring for our forests with a mind towards quiet winter recreation and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

John Garder

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