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First name: Christine

Last name: Bubser

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Yen and team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comments on this important matter. My name is Christine Bubser and I am commenting as a resident of the Town of Mammoth Lakes and in no other capacity.

The process for over-snow vehicle use designation represents an opportunity for the forest to achieve an important part of its mission. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), based in part on the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (based in turn on A National Plan for American Forestry, 1933), requires the Forest Service to manage national forests and grasslands for multiple uses. Understanding that OSV use designation is an important part of the mission, I see this as an opportunity to protect all users - both motorized and non-motorized and enhance the experience of all. But in order to do that, careful planning, particularly in the congested areas around the Town of Mammoth Lakes, must be completed. I am concerned that some historical work, particularly around the area of the Sherwin Meadow - known as the Sharp Plan - was not included in the draft. A large group of people representing multiple organizations spent a great deal of time developing these plans and yet they are not represented in the Draft Plan. For further reference, see the attachment. In it, they carefully found compromises to make it safe for uses including but not limited to OSVs, families engaging in snow play, people who want to walk their dogs, Nordic and backcountry skiers and snowboarders all to have access while limiting use conflicts. To be clear, by use conflicts I mean that it is just impractical to assume all those different types of users can stage from the same place and just "figure it out." By increasing clarity around which activities are allowed in specific areas, everyone accessing that area has the opportunity to engage in their activity safely and with clear expectations. To be clear, my points are not about limiting areas for OSV access. Many people in our community treasure these activities. In our vast area, however, it is possible to make clear which activities are allowed in which areas so that users can choose options and know with more certainty the conditions they can expect to find there.

These issues are particularly important in close-in areas to access points and at staging areas and I am focusing on those areas for my comments. There are many other considerations to be made such as protecting delicate areas, wildlife, and other considerations, which are also important and must be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for all your work on behalf of the Inyo National Forest.

Sincerely,

Christine Bubser