

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/22/2015 12:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: July 22, 2015

RE: Stanislaus Forest Over-Snow-Plan for Snowmobile Use

Due to the change in climate with increasingly elevated snowline, the forests have sustained changes in wildlife habitat and range. Sightings of significant rare wildlife have alerted scientists to the importance of critical areas for habitat and forage in remote forests often adjacent to designated protected areas.

Today, the request to expand areas of travel adjacent to those protected areas, has triggered an alarm for conservationists and wildlife recreationists who value these terrains and the wildlife within these requested, new open spaces. The requests received today signify the problems resulting from the lessening snowfall and increased snow elevations due to the dramatic changes in climate throughout the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range.

Opening new areas at highest elevations will require expensive maintenance and oversight which will be difficult to provide under stressed budgets. The damage to terrains and wildlife from vehicle traffic cannot be mitigated nor can we recover those species which sustain the greatest impacts.

At this time, I recommend a moratorium on expansion for this current season 2015-2016. For areas adjacent to designated Wilderness, I am opposed to any increase in vehicle traffic and trust that the Forest Service will abide by the laws of conservation of our public lands and wildlife, for the best interest of the the majority of the community at large.

These comments include an attachment with relevant information on the Sierra Frogs. I have a particular interest in protection of the Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog, a fragile species which highly susceptible to toxins in the air, such as vehicle emissions.

Our community trusts that the right decisions will be made for the best interest of the forest resources. Thank you for allowing this comment.

Attachment: State of Sierra Frogs, www.sierranevadaalliance.org: pgs., 3,4,17,20