

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/11/2015 12:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: See Attachment

August 10, 2015

Forest Service

Stanislaus National Forest, Mi-Wuk Ranger District

P.O. Box 100, 24695 Highway 108

Mi-Wuk Village, CA 95346

Attention:Phyllis Ashmead

OSV Comments:

I, my family, and many other fellow snowmobilers have been OSV riders for decades. I personally for upwards of 30 years now. Have been coming to the Stanislaus National Forest not only as a second generation user but am continuing the tradition to third generation user with my family. Although we mainly ride on Highway 108, we also ride on Highway 4 at least a couple time a year. I, and a few family members and friends, attended some of your open house meetings and although, we found them to be informative, they left a lot of unanswered questions. It is unfortunate that a big group of the OSV users were unaware of the earlier meetings that took place late last year and earlier this year at the beginning of this process. We are all hoping that more discussion will come out of this preliminary process and that you strongly consider either additional meetings and/or moving forward with the workshop that you were proposing.

After in depth discussions with fellow OSV riders, it is an over whelming concern that we are slowly losing off-road areas to ride in and are concerned that the future of our sport is coming down to mostly riding on top of snow covered paved highways. The proposed map makes no sense not only to us as off-road riders as it is too complicated to know areas you can be and can't be but, also to the Forest Service as it is impossible to enforce! I believe that if you continue to limit the areas of riding as is being proposed, you will just get more out of bounds riders. This, I'm sure, is not the goal however, will be one of the outcomes. As I stated above, I have been riding for upwards of 30 years and with the areas we have been unrestricted and able to ride was adequate and there has never been a need to go out of these areas so have been able to police ourselves. We ride all over the Cooper Peak, Castle Rock, Three Meadows, Eagle Peak (west side), Eagle Meadow, Sardine Meadow, Red Rock Meadow, Haypress Meadow, Silver Mine areas as well as the weather station area and St. Mary's area at Sonora Pass. The proposed restrictions of either part, or all of these areas, is not only our major concern but also being proposed in a fashion that is unenforceable. I motion to re-open all the proposed wilderness area for OSV use in lieu of any further restrictions. This would allow for continued riding of these areas as well as eliminate undo costs on the Forest Service as far as trying to mark and/or police an unenforceable OSV riding area.

Best Regards,

Bryan Holzman

Bryan Holzman

Oakdale, CA