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Via email: pashmead@fs.fed.us

COUNTY OF ALPINE
Board of Supervisors

Subject: Stanislaus National Forest Proposed Action for Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Dear Phyllis:
Alpine County appreciates meeting with the Stanislaus National Forest staff at the recent Open House's in Bear Valley, Hathaway Pines, and Sonora to review the Proposed Action for the Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation.

Alpine County supports the Proposed Actions within Alpine County which would designate OSV use on National Forest System roads, National Forest System Trails, and areas on National Forest System lands within the Stanislaus National Forest where snowfall depth is adequate for that use to occur. One of the most significant proposed actions which Alpine County supports would be to amend the Forest Plan to allow winter OSV use in Pacific Valley (approximately 8, 578 acres), which would reflect the historic use in this area.

Alpine County also supports working with the US Forest Service and Tuolumne Counties for authority to groom Clark's Fork Road (9 miles) and Highland Lakes Road (5 miles) as part of this proposed Action. These actions will require agreements between the Stanislaus National Forest, Tuolumne and Alpine Counties. Historically the Forest has groomed Highland Lakes Road, an Alpine County road, on the Calaveras Ranger District.

Other Proposed Actions which Alpine County Supports includes: 1) To Identify 58 miles of designated OSV trails that would be groomed on the Stanislaus National Forest, 2) To designate 98 miles of ungroomed OSV routes, 3) To designate 141,073 acres for open OSV riding, and 4) To implement a Forest-wide snow-depth requirement for OSV use that would provide for public safety and natural and cultural resource protection by allowing off-trail, cross-country OSV use in designated areas when there is a minimum of 12 inches of continuous and supportable snow covering the landscape at 5,000 feet elevation and above. We also recognize that Stanislaus Meadow will require a minimum depth of 24 inches, measured at the meadow.

With the Lake Alpine Sno-Park area being one of the most popular Sno-Parks in California, and with Alpine County being 96 % public land and 55% designated wilderness , we heavily rely on tourism in our county. Our County cannot afford to lose any snowmobile riding areas. The multi-use groomed trail in the Lake Alpine Sno-Park area is used by both snowmobilers and Nordic skiers. The un-groomed higher country areas provide opportunities for expert snowmobile riders.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during this process.