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Organization:

Title:

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U.S Forest service

Stanislaus National Forest

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Attn: Sue Warren

Sue I am writing this letter in opposition of the closure of the over snow vehicles. Please consider these thoughts that I am sure are the views of the large majority of the snowmobile population.

Frist: We have what is known as wilderness land which it set aside for no motorized vehicle operation. We abide by this and understand this. We as snowmobilers have different ability skills and enjoy different type of riding. Some like to stay on the trail while others love to explore the vast country not accessible by roads. These riders are the ones who do it for the challenge and the views and scenery which we are able to explore and see. There are times I wish may family could see the views I have while riding over the past 34 years. I would like my son and daughter to be able to have the opportunity to see the things that I have seen but closing these lands would not make this possible. I think this opinion needs to be rethought.

Second: If all snowmobilers would have been notified of this possible closure you would have gotten a larger opposition. I just recently heard about this and ask the question of why this was not posted at the trail heads where riding begins or better yet why was it not sent out to all people who register green sticker snowmobiles in the state.

Third: If the closure can't be stopped then I encourage you to rethink the amount of area being closed. If you look at the area where cross country skiers go, I would think that 95% of them do not venture more than five miles beyond the trail head. So if we think of closing the areas beyond this that are used by snowmobilers this would be a major blow to our sport and the people who enjoy these areas. These areas would not be seen by the public anymore during the winter. So please reconsider the areas being closed with this thought in mind.

Fourth: It is our green sticker money which pays for the grooming on the trails which are used by all types of people in different capacity. If the trails were not like this then the traffic of the cross country skiers would be less in most groomed trail areas and we probably would not be in this situation.

Fifth: If someone is lost in the back country, who is the ones who go looking for the people or person who is lost? It is snowmobilers and we do not hesitate to do so as I have been camping in areas and have done it three times in all the years of snowmobiling I have done. Two out of then three times it was cross country skiers one lost and one hurt.

So please do not close down our areas of national forest as this is a forest managed by the nation for the use of the people in the nation and should be able to be used by individuals as they see fit and we should be able to travel in any areas they want for satisfaction and enjoyment. This should also be left this way as we are all tax paying citizens and I feel we are losing a right to the national forest.

I hope you see these as valid points to keep the areas open or postpone this decision for a longer comment period and make the people if affects aware of this potential closure.

Thanks,  
Mark Leiting  
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