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Title:

Comments: I feel that the INF and Mammoth Lakes vicinity need more areas OPEN to snowmobiling. The sport is becoming increasingly popular in the area, and with the recent addition of wilderness restriction areas and low snow years, our riding acreage has never been as limited as it is now. Especially in light of the recent designation of additional wilderness on the INF that technically does not meet wilderness criteria standards in the first place! The majority of our potential riding area is either currently or recently designated as wilderness, or a closed riding area for other various reasons, and in my opinion, more land needs to be opened up for OSV use! Snowmobilers help boost the local winter economy and enhance the winter recreation opportunities/experiences in the area. The parking areas for snowmobilers are terrible in the area! The tiny parking lot near Chair 4 is the last thing to get plowed after a storm, often creating a very dangerous staging area on 203 among the ski traffic traveling to and from Mammoth Mountain. The Shady Rest area has a decent size parking lot, but the snow level is often to low to ride from this area, and there are several other user groups who use this parking lot as well, often creating confusion and a mess of different parking methods in the lot. Give the cross-country skiers a place to park and designate an area for snowmobile parking/staging. Please don't pile conflicting recreational groups on top of each other in small or inefficient parking zones. And please OPEN more riding areas!!! Not East of 395 where there is rarely enough snow to ride, but rather open new zones West of 395 where the snow pack can support snowmobile use. Mammoth Tourism groups, and OSV riding area opponents (like Sierra Club), often tout statistics about how much OSV riding acreage and trails there are to ride around Mammoth already, but the reality is a significant portion of these zones currently open to snowmobiling cannot be ridden in average to below average snow years, thereby drastically reducing the true "area" to ride. It does little good to open areas to snowmobilers that typically don't receive enough snowfall to ride. Let us ride where the snow pack is good! Open the Lakes Basin for OSV use all winter, and open all INF land butting up to the Mammoth Crest. Open more areas between Mammoth And June Mountain. Also, give access across 203 via the tunnel, or other potential crossing zones throughout Town. The ability to access a gas station on our snowmobiles would be a great idea as well, and boost local business. Thank you for the opportunity to comment! In summary, please embrace the snowmobile recreation community by OPENING MORE RIDING AREAS, IMPROVE PARKING and ACCESS ROUTES throughout the INF and Mammoth Lakes areas.