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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Our family moved to Bear Valley 26 years ago primarily to enjoy the wide variety of winter activities in the surrounding forest. We enjoy both downhill and cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. Because we enjoy these activities, I was concerned to hear that the FS is proposing to limit snowmobiling in the area. I attended the open house meetings in Sonora and have the following comments. The areas where I regularly ride and would like to remain open include the entire Pacific Valley/Marshall Canyon area and the entire Highland Lakes area. In addition, I ride the entire area west of Bear Valley to about Mattley Meadows. These are all areas that allow for more advanced riding without encroaching on wilderness. Being a previous business owner in Bear Valley, I feel it is important to the financial health of the community, Alpine County and the highway 4 corridor in general, to offer as many recreational opportunities as possible to attract visitors to the area. Snowmobiling is a huge, and growing, part of this. In addition, snowmobile access is extremely important for emergency response by Search and Rescue and Bear Valley Fire, both of which I volunteer with. In reviewing the various alternatives, none are perfect, but Alternative 4 seems to address the above concerns the best. I would, however, like to see additional area open in the Mosquito Lake area as this area is often used to drop in to Pacific Valley. I would like to see the entire area between Highway 4 and Pacific Valley designated as open. I would also like to see the area just north of Mosquito Lake open to OSV. This small area currently shows closed on Alternative 4. Riders often ride that ridge just north of highway 4 from the snow park to Mosquito Lake and drop down to the road across this proposed close area. To summarize, I believe Alternative 4, with the small modifications listed above, represents the best solution for continued winter recreation growth on the highway 4 corridor, benefiting both the recreational users and the affected surrounding communities. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project.

Thank you,  
Jeffrey Sibley  
Bear Valley, CA