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Comments: I submit these comments as a professional consultant in terrestrial ecology and conservation biology, with over 25 years of experience in CA, OR and other western states.

I oppose adoption of Alternative 5 for the Stanislaus Forest OSV Recreation Management Plan. This alternative threatens the wilderness qualities of the scenic Pacific Valley and Eagle roadless areas and is in direct conflict with conserving the endangered Sierra Nevada red fox. Not only does snowmobile noise disturb sensitive wildlife during difficult winter conditions, it has been well-documented that coyotes can use the compressed tracks of snowmobiles to access the deep snows of the high country to predate on this rare fox and other vulnerable taxa. I URGE THE FOREST SERVICE TO ADOPT ALTERNATIVE 3 INSTEAD, which keeps the Pacific Valley and Eagle roadless areas closed to winter motorized use, retains opportunities for quiet human-powered winter recreation, and protects the Sierra Nevada red fox and other high-elevation wildlife from chronic human-caused disturbance.