

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/5/2018 2:03:18 PM

First name: Robert

Last name: Riede

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forestry -

I am writing today to say that I oppose any closing of any snowmobile areas in the Stanislaus National Forest. What areas do I ride? All of them currently open: Highway 108- Highway 4 - Highway 88. Stanislaus Forest has so much wilderness already that OSV's are not allowed in, so closing anymore makes no sense. I have been riding for 20 years and have never seen any conflicts with snow skiers / snow shoers/ and OSV's. We see them at snow parks, they cant get to our favorite areas that are at 7 to 9000 foot elevation. The near natural should apply to OHV's not OSV's. With adequate snow pack we cause zero damage. I have met many snowmobilers over the years that travel to our county to ride. They buy gas, hotels, and meals here. Closing riding areas would be bad for local economies. I live in Sonora but when I travel to highway 4 / Bear Valley or highway 88 I make sure to buy gas, food, and sometimes hotels in their areas. On highway 108 / Sonora Pass please leave Herring Loop, Eagle Meadows, Long Valley designated as near natural winter motorized access open to wilderness boundaries, Mill Creek area accessible to snowmobiles. Please leave Sonora Pass open to snowmobiles until the 12 inch minimum is met - do not close when highway is open.

Highway 4/ Bear Valley: Please leave Bear Valley ski basin open up to wilderness boundaries including Jelmini and Beartrap. Please leave the Pacific Valley / Lookout Peak zone open as near natural winter motorized access. Springtime riding with our friends and families at Bear Valley ski resort when closed and highway 108 / Sonora Pass when opened area very special to all of us.

It has come to my knowledge that Tuolumne County, Calaveras County supervisors and Tom McClintock oppose closing any snowmobile areas as it will negatively affect mountain winter economies.