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Comments: Alternative 5 is the Forest's preferred alternative for the Stanislaus Forest OSV Recreation Management Plan. I oppose this alternative because it threatens the wilderness qualities of the scenic Pacific Valley and Eagle roadless areas. I have hiked and backpacked in both areas in the past and experienced their outstanding wilderness qualities. They should be added to the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. OSV use allowed by Alternative 5 would drastically reduce opportunities for quiet winter recreation in these areas.

Surviving the harsh winters is very difficult for The endangered Sierra Nevada red foxes living in or near these areas. OSV use would be an additional threat to the foxes' survival. OSV noise would disturb the foxes, and coyotes can use packed snowmobile tracks to much more easily access the deep snows of the high country and prey on the foxes.

I support adoption of Alternative 3, 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.