

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/8/2018 9:36:11 PM

First name: Mary

Last name: Krupka

Organization: Sonora Pass Snowmobile Club

Title:

Comments: When I was reading through the proposed DEIS, I had to pause when reading about all of the animals that could be disturbed by snowmobiler's. During my riding times, I can honestly say that I have never seen a deer, owl, eagle, fox, frog or coyote. I have seen a few chipmunks and that is it. The animals are smart and take care of themselves. Years ago, our ranger asked if we would alert them if we ever saw a coyote heading up 108 and over the pass. We never saw a coyote or tracks from one! I also thought I read in one of the proposals that the 108 gate by Kennedy Meadows should be closed. That would be a shame because access to the top of the pass and what I call the "Promise Land" offers excellent riding that is hard to find outside the Eagle Meadows area. I think it was the winter of 2017 when we had a lot of snow and Dead Man's Creek was covered by probably 20 feet of snow or more. We were able to ride the natural bowls and drainage areas that tend to be too rocky to ride. Getting to the top and then to the "Promise Land" was such a reward! You see, getting over the pass is tough due to the fickleness of our snow. The proposal seems to be worried about predators using our tracks to get to the top of 108, how about the blacktop? For the past 7 years and longer, we have only been able to get to the top of HWY 108 a couple times a year due to the snow melt on the highway. The tracks from our snowmobiles is such a small factor when you consider how many days the highways is exposed due to a lack of low snow from Dardanelles to almost the very top of 108.

When looking at the map, the peaks along Long Valley (Eagle Meadows - 5N01) appear to be taken away from the snowmobile community. These peaks are a great ride that takes us towards Relief Res. I have never been up there and riding on dirt or disrupting sensitive soils. I can't get to these peaks if the snow isn't good enough and covering or protecting these areas. The views are spectacular, we are totally away from any human powered activity and the removal of this riding area would be a blow to the riders who want to challenge their skills, snowboard and mountain ride.

There was mention of noise and conflict with the human powered users. Once again, I have never had a negative encounter with a human powered user. When it comes to noise, the technology has come a long way. There are times when I am looking for a buddy and I ask them to start their sled so I can hear where they are...they were 200 yards from me and I could not hear their sled. 200 yards is less than a quarter of a mile yet there are proposals for a half mile of clearance for noise. There is also technology to test a sled/motorcycle/auto for noise infractions. If this is such an issue, use the meter and site those who are not in compliance. Don't fault the entire riding community and take riding areas away, due to a handful of loud snowmobiles/snowbikes. Off of HWY 4, we like to ride these areas: Pacific Valley, Highlands, Bear Trap/ Jelmini Basin, Lookout Peak. When heading to Pacific Valley, we like to ride the ridge just to the side of Mosquito Lake and hope the proposed plan could be modified to allow continued use. These areas allow for more technical riding and they are away from any human powered users.

The Spicer Sno-Park has been kind of worthless to us due to the lower snow elevations being too warm. It would be great if we had consistent snow, but it is just a hit and miss type of situation. This crams us all into the Alpine Lake Snow-Park. Basically, we are already limited to 11 of the 18 or 19 sno-parks and with Spicer's sno-park being at a lower elevation, that only leaves us with 10 parks. The same problem happens on 108 but allowances are not made to help us reach the high snow elevations. We are literally blocked from riding due to sno-park locations and gates. If I was a snow shoe or CC skier, I could hop on my bike, ride and find snow at these locations. Because I am a snowmobiler, I cannot get access.

I know of people who are pushing for closures yet there is no way they can get to many of the riding places they want closed. They are not physically able to access these locations due to a lack of fitness or because they are very far away with extremely difficult climbs. The 1% of the snow user population would have to snow camp in

order to reach these sites and their numbers are very small. I also think that my sled would be a welcome sight, if they were to have an issue. Lastly, much of our forest is user friendly to many groups. Just because someone hikes an area in the dry months doesn't mean it needs to be closed to motorized winter groups. When I 4 wheel, I see back packers using our trail for ease. I see people hiking around to look at wild flowers. Once again, I slow down, saw hi, see if they need anything and move on slowly.