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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose Alternative 5 for the Stanislaus Forest OSV Recreation Management Plan.

My family and friends have enjoyed the Carson-Iceberg wilderness area for many years, and I personally helped the California Wilderness Coalition to inventory and map the wilderness-quality lands in the Eagle roadless area, a potential addition to the Emigrant Wilderness.

We believe Alternative 5 would threaten the wilderness qualities of both the Pacific Valley and Eagle roadless areas, degrade quiet winter recreation opportunities there, and threaten the endangered Sierra Nevada red fox, which was only recently discovered to be still occupying the Sierra!

I agree with the analysis of local conservation groups: "Not only does snowmobile noise disturb sensitive wildlife struggling to survive during bleak winter conditions, coyotes can use the compressed tracks of snowmobiles to access the deep snows of the high country to predate on this rare fox."

I urge adoption of 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.