

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/8/2018 11:51:53 PM

First name: Grahm

Last name: Doe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been riding Highway 4 and Sonora Pass areas for 10 years on over snow vehicles.

Non of the Alternatives suit our needs, so here are my comments regarding over snow travel in these areas.

Snow levels can vary from season to season and south versus north slopes can be almost bare on one side and very deep on others. Snow depth should not be a restrictive factor in determining riding. All snowmobilers travel through thin snow to find deep snow and there is no harm to the environment.

Highway 4/Bear Valley:

Bear Valley Ski Basin should be open up to wilderness boundaries including Jelmini and Beartrap.

Pacific Valley/Lookout Peak zone should be open to over snow vehicles as "Near Natural Winter Motorized Access"

Revert the Ski Resort basin back to public land when the ski resort closes.

Highway 108/Sonora Pass:

Sonora Pass should remain open to snowmobiles until the "12 minimum rule is met. Do not close riding when highway is opened. Many areas for great late season riding can be accessed by driving up the road when it is opened.

Leave Herring Loop, Eagle Meadows, Long Valley open to over snow vehicles up to surrounding wilderness boundaries.

Mill Creek should be accessible to snowmobiles as "Near Natural Winter Motorized Access".

It also my view that restricting the available riding areas will concentrate the users into a small area. This could lead to conflict between different user groups. Over snow vehicles can travel great distances very quickly and do not stick to roads. It is best to let them use the back country away from other user groups. The back country is what is the most enjoyable and there are many of us who use over snow vehicles to do it. Opening more areas to riding, (not less) is the direction the Forest Service should move in for myself and fellow riders.

Thank you,

Grahm Doe