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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was born and raised in California and currently own a home in Bear Valley because I love spending time hiking, snowmobiling, fishing and hunting in the Stanislaus National Forest. This terrain is a national treasure and the OSV is one of the best, environmental clean ways of accessing much of this land. I am against the proposed actions to reduce the available terrain for OSV. I believe the Environmental Impact Report "got it wrong" because it uses Summer Data on wildlife inhabitants to support restrictions for a Winter OSV activity. I am supportive of protecting these lands and the 12" and 24" snow depth protections because I agree riding OSVs in low snow mark the lands and plants, and if there is less than 12" of snow its about time when wildlife re-emerge. Here is more detail on these two points:

Overstated Wildlife Impacts -The impacts to wildlife are likely overstated in the report because they did not study the resident populations in the Winter period during which OSV would occupy the same terrain. Much of the area being proposed for closure is above 6,500 feet where there is 5-10 feet of snow on the ground from Christmas to Easter. It is not until early spring when animals like the yellow-legged frog, the deer, and some of the birds would survive in these harsh elevations. For this report to have merit, it would need to consider winter-time populations.

Snow Depth Minimums Make Sense - I support the use of 12" and 24" minimum snow depth as a means of restricting OSV winter travel. This protects the soil, small plants, and burrowing/hibernating animals from being disturbed and just makes good sense. I would support keeping the more terrain open with these restrictions.

I spend alot of time in the woods in both summer and winter and have every desire to keep the forest protected from "human" damage. But, this should not mean blanket restrictions for OSV access.

Thanks much

Peter