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First name: R Last name: Hart Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern: As a backcountry skier resident in Calaveras county, I use the Snoparks accessed by Highway 4 very frequently during the winter months. It is of tantamount importance that there is an area that is safe from OSV that can be used by backcountry skiers, splitboarders, and snow-shoers. Realistically human powered recreationalists can only access Bee Gulch, Poison Canyon, Bard's Bowl and Round Valley. Accordingly, I support any forest plan for OSV other than the "no action" plan that would keep these areas open to OSV. My family was almost involved in a potentially fatal accident when a snowmobile jumped off a ridge above us in Bard's Bowl. Due to the engine noise, the speed of snowmobiles, and the ridgelines, we could warn the fast moving snowmobile of our presence. Thankfully the incident was only limited to a near miss. It strikes me that snowmobiles can access terrain in a matter of minutes that skiers and snow-shoers would take hours to access. Basically, any place beyond the Woodchuck trailhead. Points beyond that should avoid almost any backcountry encounters, i.e. off the plowed highway 4, between human powered and motorized recreationalists. Finally I would add that backcountry skiing is the fastest growing segment of the winter sports industry, and Highway 4 is a prime location due to the easy access from the Snoparks to the Poison Canyon, Round Valley, Bard's Bowl and Bee Gulch areas. Maintaining a pristine backcountry skiing experience will continue to attract more and more backcountry skiers and their leisure dollars to the area. Thank you for your consideration of these points. Kind regards, Robin