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Comments: I oppose the adoption of Alternative 5 to amend the Stanislaus Forest OSV Recreation Management Plan. Studies have shown that snowmobile use in areas similar to the Carson-Iceberg and Emigrant Wilderness areas will result in packed snow. Coyotes use the packed trails to increase their hunting range. This current proposal would allow coyotes to access the high country area to prey on the rare Sierra Nevada red fox. The snowmobile noise would also disturb sensitive wildlife struggling to survive harsh winter conditions. Allowing increased access by human beings would impact the ecological balance needed for survival of native plants and animals in this area.

I urge you to reject Alternative 5 and choose Alternative 3 which continues protections by sustaining the roadless qualities of these areas.