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Comments: Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to Stanislaus National Forest OSV Use Plan. CalWild has signed on to joint comments submitted by WildEarth Guardians et al. This comment is intended to supplement the joint comments.

The alternatives presented for public comments are confusing. Is the Forest Service recommending the Proposed Alternative (#1) or the Preferred Alternative (#5). Either alternative is unsatisfactory as they would open up to snowmobile use the Pacific Valley and Eagle roadless areas currently off limits to motorized winter recreation. We recommend adoption of Alternative 3 with modifications (see WildEarth Guardians et al comment letter).

All alternative maps on the Forest Service web site have large black lines at the top and bottom that obliterate key sections of the maps, including sensitive areas proposed for snowmobile use. This makes it difficult for the public to comment effectively on the proposal. The maps should be corrected, reposted on the site, and the public comment period should be extended so that the public has the opportunity to comment intelligently on each alternative.

We are shocked that the Forest Service is proposing to open up areas that currently provide habitat for the extremely rare Sierra Nevada red fox. It is clear that this species, once thought extirpated from the entire mountain range south of Lassen Volcanic National Park, has found a refuge in the Pacific Valley area and the roadless lands surrounding Sonora Pass because these areas are currently off limits to snowmobile use. The DEIS fails to adequately address the impacts of this plan on this rare species and other wildlife sensitive to noise and motorized intrusions.

In addition, allowing motorized winter recreation to become established in the Pacific Valley and Eagle roadless areas will likely preclude any future consideration for their potential addition to the Carson Iceberg and Emigrant Wilderness areas (respectively). This future use must not be foreclosed on.

We urge adoption of Alternative 3 with modifications. In particular, we urge that the Pacific Valley and Eagle roadless areas remain closed to all motorized use.