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Comments: Areas of non-motorized recreation remain as important as ever in this busy and noisy world. This sector of winter recreation is also growing in popularity with backcountry skiing and snowshoeing gaining more and more exposure.

With that in mind, it is imperative that the Forest Service respect non-motorized recreation and adopt Alternative 3, which is the only alternative to comply fully with regulations by minimizing conflict between snowmobiles and skiers. It is simply not acceptable to allow continued use of snow machines in Near Natural areas where they were not supposed to be allowed in the first place. Likewise, the size of these Near Natural areas should not be reduced just to allow this continued violation of the Forest Plan.

I am supportive of the following areas being set aside for non-motorized recreation in the near and long-term: Mattley Ridge, Cabbage Patch to Black Spring, Osborne Hill and Lake Alpine, Big Meadow and Herring Creek Road. These areas have been used for backcountry skiing for years and yet the Forest Service did not take this into account and the proposed alternative instead allows snowmobiles into this area.

Fresh snow is a finite resource and quiet places are becoming harder to find. Snow machines access these lands quicker and with more noise and pollution that destroys the experience non-motorized users are looking for. It's best to keep a balance and study the historical use and economic impact of all groups, not just the noisiest.