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First name: Ben

Last name: Birk

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the Stanislaus Nation Forest,

My name is Ben Birk and I live in Truckee, CA. I'm the representative of "Brp Boiz" which is a group of 25 California residents who use their snowmobiles to snowboard in the Sierra Nevada. My comments represent myself as well as the 25 members of "Brp Boiz."

We do not support any of the proposed closures to snowmobiles. We enjoy using our snowmobiles to snowboard off both Highway 4 and Highway 108. We would like to see the existing management kept in place.

That being said, here are the changes we would like to see to there preferred alternative.

The preferred alternative is very complicated. It has very fragmented layout of open land and varying snow depth requirements. This will lead to high confusion for both users and forest rangers. We think the snow depth requirement on the road is unnecessary because we don't drive our snowmobiles on the road once the snow is gone because it will damage the machines hardware and cause them to overheat.

We enjoy snowboarding around Highland Lakes and we use the Highland Lakes road for access. There is a very famous snowboard jump there that people have hit and filmed on for decades. We would like to see this area remain open for sled usage.

We also enjoy riding in the Pacific Valley/ Lookout Peak. There are many good snowboard lines that come down from the tops of the peaks down to the valley floor. We would like to see the snowmobile boundary moved from the valley floor to the tops of the mountain peaks. So we can snowmobile to the ridge line to drop off our friends for lines.

We would like to see snowmobiling kept in the Bear Valley Ski Resort Basin. We enjoy attending the local gathering of snowmobilers at the end of the season after the resort closes. It's a great way to see some friends for the last time before summer starts. Please don't take this away.

We think the top of Sonora pass should remain open to snowmobiles until it reaches the 12" minimum requirements after the highway is opened. We enjoy catching some spring laps on our snowboards while being assisted by our sleds.

We would like to see "Near Natural Wilderness" listed as "Near Natural Winter Motorized Access". We believe this because snowmobiles do not impact the ground.

We believe the comments from the "scoping period" do not represent the actual users of the forest and lack input from snowmobilers. We are disturb to see outside groups like "Winter Wildlands Alliance" come to our forest and try to influence the forest service to remove users from public land. "Getting away from people" does not mean restricting access to other individuals who might share these areas. The USFS needs to understand there are some groups that make that their intent! Furthermore, the more user groups that are banned from land means there will be less people to stand up for the land when the government tries to sell off public land to private entities. We need to keep people using the land and invested in the future of the land.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments,

Ben Birk