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Organization: Tahoe Massive

Title:

Comments: I live in South Lake Tahoe/Bridgeport, CA and spend a majority of my winter traveling HWY 4 and HWY 108 by snowmobile and ski touring. Above all I am a outdoor enthusiast that wants to protect our beautiful lands for generations to come. If implemented I feel that the proposed restrictions of our snowmobile accessed terrain will hurt several local small town economies. Few people besides snowmobilers and sled access skiers travel through these small towns in the winter as it is. Closing these OHV recreation areas April 15 is not a viable option. I have seen years that Bridgeport winter recreation area will close with 20ft of snow still in the mountains. Keeping these lands open for snowmobile access will continue to bring more people to town until the snow is gone. I am sure this will be of great benefit to these small town economies. If there are more restrictions such as needing 24" or 12" of snow for snowmobile access to be permitted this will only add to the strain on local small town economy. The basis of closing down access with less than a foot or two of base does not make sense. An inch or two of ice or hard packed snow is enough to keep a snowmobile from disturbing the ecosystems below. Snowmobiles are not designed to ride on dirt and rocks and will quickly melt the hifaxes if not ridden in substantial snow. This is plenty of encouragement for snowmobilers to not ride where there is not enough snow. Not to mention that knowing the exact level of snow in a particular zone is difficult as a user as well as difficult to enforce.

Many of the areas with proposed restrictions and closures would become extremely difficult and near impossible to access by foot. These lands are for public use and would become inaccessible with such closures as Tyson Peak, Lookout Peak, Highland Lake Road, and the loops from Cabbage Patch. This could also leads to a potentially deadly hinderance if there is the need of search and rescue. The bowls from Bull Run Peak to Henry Peak and the wilderness boundary near Peep Sight Peak should all be open. This is great mountainous riding terrain for the people to enjoy.

Restricting snowmobiles to meadows and lowlands is not acceptable. The majority of snowmobilers traveling the country and world to come to these areas do not travel to ride in meadows. We like to test our skills in the big mountain terrain and that is what makes Sonora Pass and Ebbetts Pass such a Mecca. Though we love to send it in mountainous terrain there are times that a lack of grooming can lead to treacherous routes between Kennedy Meadows and Sonora Pass. Even grooming this section occasionally will tremendously cut back on risk and the massive wind drifts that form.

Alternative 4 best represents my thoughts on managing these lands. Please keep our snowmobile access lands open for all to enjoy! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alex Dorszynski