

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/10/2018 7:00:00 AM

First name: William M.

Last name: Littell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Unlike most others, I had the privilege of growing up in the Yosemite Valley during the 1920's and '30s. At that time, there were very few automobiles or other mechanized vehicles in the valley: it was often silent, as it had been for hundreds of thousands of years, with little to disturb the tranquility of staff, visitors, or wildlife. In my childhood, I saw often, and heard from, the natural residents of the valley: deer, bears, coyotes, squirrels, blue jays - and many others.

We all know what has happened since then in the valley: too many vehicles, too many people, too much noise -- all unanticipated consequences.

The memory of that time prompts me to oppose any increase in the areas that can be traversed by Over-Snow Vehicles in the Stanislaus National Forest, where I now own property near the end of Eagle Meadow Road/5N01. The sanctity of that space is already violated during summer and fall by automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, and periodic gunfire. Those who have built in the space formerly known as wilderness and those who want 'wilderness' experience from the seats of off-road vehicles already have a disproportionate impact on the area and the wildlife that inhabits it.

As you may know, the National Forest Service already has some concerns about the increasing noise in formerly-quiet public lands and a program dedicated to studying this issue. Exactly what this program aims to do, and whether its concerns mirror my own, is something I cannot say. Nonetheless, I know that the concern I am raising here is not mine alone, and I respectfully suggest that any plan to expand the areas in which OSV's - and their summer equivalents - be as restricted as possible.

Thanks for your attention to my comments.