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Title:

Comments: I object to the closure of additional OSV areas without solid rational and scientifically backed data with peer reviewed studies. I also have a lot of questions and concerns in the regards to the closure of additional areas. My first concern is how does the agency plan to deal with best available technology. In the very near future OSV will be electric. These electric OSV vehicles will have virtually no noise and emissions. When OSV's become electric at this point OSV vehicles will essentially create the same impact to an area as a human using non-marmorized transportation. It would only make since to ban all human traffic from these areas or have a permit system with limited use. What will be the new criteria for evaluation of banning electric OSV vehicles. One cannot use the same criteria for the justification of a vehicle that has no noise and smog emissions vs one that does. How will the FS gather and use future data and surveying on these electric vehicles? I also would like to know why non-motorized users are allowed on OSV groomed trails. In most states it is state grant money designated for OSV grooming that is used to groom trials that all users use. Some Cross-Country skiers and Snowshoers do not respect and put OSV users and themselves in harm. They ski or snowshoe in the middle of the trail and have their dogs off lease. This is equivalent to walking in a middle of a road or interstate. A lot of times they will complain about OSV users being reckless when in reality they are the ones disrespecting and no obeying snow etiquettes. Is there a reason why non-Motorized travel is always allowed in areas that have Motorized travel? I have never seen a OSV play area that bands non-motorized travel I only see areas that ban areas of motorized travel such as wilderness. People can still cross country ski or snowshoe in the wilderness. If area get closed for legitimate resource concerns and reasons alternative areas that are currently should be opened up so we do not lose more OSV access. After all it is a land of many uses.

I would also like for the FS to consider areas for Sled Touring or places where OSV can are limited to designated routs only for the purpose of accessing slops you can Ski/Snowboard on and not have the area full of snowmobile motorized vehicle tracks. Snowmobile or Cat shuttle ski laps. Maybe even plan for an area for nonexclusive snowcat skiing operations.