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Comments: I am writing to comment on the proposed opening of large parts of the Inyo national forest to snow machines. As an avid winter skier and snowshoer, I am opposed to this plan. While I appreciate that many people enjoy snow machining for many reasons, I believe that other occupants of the forest deserve places to enjoy (besides wilderness) that are free from the noise and impact of snow machines. I often go skiing and snowshoeing *outside* of the wilderness, primarily because many wilderness areas are mountainous and have high avalanche danger. The flatter areas, all of which would become open to snow machines with this plan, are much safer (and often easier to traverse with kids!). Snow machines also tend to "ruin" the snow for cross-country skiing, making it dangerous and unpleasant to travel on.

I believe that motorized snow vehicles absolutely deserve a place to enjoy our forests, but I do not believe that they should have free reign over such a large swath of land.

Thank you so much for your time.