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Organization: Mammoth Lakes Sierra Group

Title: OSV Use Designation

Comments: The Mammoth Lakes Sierra Group (OSV chapter) consists of at least 500 members in Mammoth Lakes and surrounding areas. We treasure our public lands and support Motorized recreation in the Eastern Sierra. As a representative of this group, I'd like to express our thoughts on the Over Snow Vehicle management plan:

Non-Motorized "anti-access" groups (e.g. Range of Light Group) have consistently created conflict where there is none, and have made false allegations that are simply not true. Snowmobilers do not impact non-snowmobilers - Ironically, it's consistently the other way around - With multiple and endless land closures, endless frivolous lawsuits, and non-stop financial bullying have unfortunately shrunk OSV and OHV access over the years. Eastern Sierra Snowmobile users are often found in extremely deep powder, while skiers and fat bikers avoid these conditions. The east side of Highway 395 is for OSV and non-OSV use and the west side is also used for Snowmobiles. This co-existence of user groups has been safely done since the 1970's with very few "incidents" and with very low impact on the environment.

The Mammoth Lakes Sierra Group would also strongly recommend that snowmobiles be allowed in the Mammoth Lakes Basin after April 14 as this is a popular area for local OSV users and visitors alike. All people deserve the right to access our public lands just as much as anyone else, and nobody should be targeted based on race or gender preference or Recreation preference. In fact, that would be illegal. Snowmobiles are NOT intrusive, they do not "leave tracks" that make it hard to ski on. Protecting all forms of winter motorized recreation is the "Mammoth Lakes Sierra Group - OSV Chapter's primary concern. There is no Scientific data to support the environmental destruction claims made by the "range of light" group.

On a side note: It would be wonderful if the USFS were to give presentations to the local high schools, explaining why OSV and OHV access is critical for our local community as well as a right to all Americans. I've had numerous high school kids tell me how much fun it is to safely ride around in their snowmobiles in winter, and their dirtbikes in summer. We feel that Educating the public on the needs of Motorized Public access is sorely needed. We wholeheartedly support the plan to expand designated areas for snowmobile (and other motorized) recreation. The primary areas we believe should be open are: all of the Tioga Pass area, Lee Vining canyon, all of the Sherwins, Mammoth Lakes basin, and the Minaret Summit. Too much area has already been lost to OSV use, we do not support any more closures. We are pleased to ask that OSV access be expanded as It's a legal form of recreation and should be treated as such.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.