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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Regarding this OSV Project I would like to comment that I see no issues with Subsection C as written. I am an avid OSV user in Mono County. 80% of my OSV usage occurs in the area from June Lakes to Crowley Lakes. In the 22/23 Winter I rode 900 miles on and off groomed trails. I think the best deconfliction effort between user groups would be to establish a OSV parking area away from the Shady Rest parking lot. The Shady Rest parking lot becomes a zoom in the winter as it is the only winter "dog park" accessible to residents in the winters (big snow years). Between dog walkers, skiers, tourists just looking for a snow play area, and snowmobilers the lot can become a zoo of cars, trucks, OSV's and people. The best part of your plan is making a new parking area in the RV sewer dump parking lot. Excellent idea I saw in the proposed action!

I do see upset people who don't like to share the trails leading out of Shady Rest parking with OSV's. Ideally there would be an alternate route for OSV's to get further away from the non-OSV's users. But this would incur cost with a new OSV only you route. I would suggest looking at using Saw Mill Cutoff road as a way for OSV's to exit the parking lot areas while leaving the historically groomed trail as the non-OSV route.

Lastly, I would like to say I never see anyone other than OSV users once I am about 2 or 3 miles away from Shady Rest parking area. I see no conflict between user groups as they use completely different areas of the forest. Your average skier or walker is not walking out 5 miles into the snow. We OSV users can cover 50 miles in a day. Non-OSV users stay around Shady Rest for the most part. Very rarely I might see some skiers around the groomed road to Inyo Crater. I also very rarely see any wildlife or their prints in the snow. And I am looking for wildlife as I try to get pictures on the very rare occasion I see a bird or other animal. Most of the time I see coyotes when I do see any wildlife or their paw prints in the snow.

I feel your proposal as written now is well balanced considering the area, the various user groups, and surrounding issues. Ideally, if you can achieve it, a dedicated OSV parking area and deeper forest OSV access route would help reduce user group conflict. But the actual conflict I see is basically non-OSV users giving "dirty looks" to OSV riders near the parking lot area.

Some local users (cross country skiers) have specially made it their mission to stop OSV use because they don't like to hear OSV's when they are using the forest. They have made specific statements to this. We OSV users have equal rights to use in the Inyo Forest under various Federal case decisions. Regarding their claims to impacts on wildlife I would like to remind the Forest Service of Federal case precedent case IDAHO STATE SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, v. U.S. FOREST SERVICE; THE SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST; JIM DEMAAGD, in his capacity as Acting Forest Supervisor for the Sawtooth National Forest; and MIKE DETTORI, in his capacity as District Ranger for the Fairfield Ranger District, Defendants, and WILDEARTH GUARDIANS and WINTER WILDLANDS ALLIANCE, Defendant-Intervenors. Case No. 1:19-cv-00195-DCN. Specifically in regards to wildlife impacts and closing areas to OSV's without sufficient evidence, cause or study.