

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/29/2023 3:48:19 PM

First name: Dan

Last name: Bloom

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The OSV use designation project in the Inyo National Forest should be a concern to all OSV recreationist, public land users and tax payers. This project is an attempt to restrict access to public land and a drain of taxpayer money. Furthermore the project could have negative consequences to both the environment and to public safety.

By designating OSV areas it will concentrate environmental impact and traffic to these "areas of congestion" as opposed to spreading out over larger area where any impact is minimized. OSV users do not wish to be restricted to designated trails with high congestion and regulation such as speed limits, access permits etc. Although the trail system is a wonderful and vital part of OSV recreation, one of the main joys of OSV is the ability to go off of a groomed trail and into fresh snow to explore a meadow or climb a hill. Designating and grooming trails is a great part of this project but access and use should not be restricted to only trails. This project will restrict the public's access to do such.

Rather than waste funds on a project that will negatively effect the environment and the public, funds should be appropriated for public outreach and education. OSV users realize that the forest is a precious resource and want to help conserve it. By working together and educating users of the local species that could be impacted or ways to help while out in the forest, far greater results can be achieved as opposed to just restricting access. Over-Snow Vehicles have great capabilities to travel distances and to very remote places. OSV and their users can be a great tool to help the environment if used correctly.

Public land should remain "open" and without specific designation. The public should be able to recreate and enjoy all of the land and not just where designated.