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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Long time resident and business owner in the Sierra. 69 years young and still enjoying access to this beautiful area of the Sierra. My wife and I enjoy access whether it's skating, skiing and snowmobiling. I have read Lawson Reif's comments and support his thoughts. Adding to his comments I really support opening up the parking area at the shady Rest campground parking/dump area is a great idea. Would give more parking to the dog walkers and skiers at the actual trailhead and give the snowmobiler's their own area for disembarking. In general I think our community really supports everyone's access to the forest using whatever means suits your fancy. The folks that are so against motorized vehicles are truly in the minority and unfortunately often are not locals or part of the community such as second homeowners.

For me I really enjoy our Sunday snowmobile rides with our group of gals and guys. We do most of our riding east of 395 and rarely encounter snowshoers or skiers. Maybe at a trailhead but that's it. Our group wants to get away from the public and so we don't do trails or the heavily used public areas, maybe to enter an area as an access point but we disappear after that.

As I've gotten older I've discovered that I can't physically do things as I did in my younger days, snowmobiling allows me to continue to enjoy the forest, its views and solitude. I really feel renewed after a day of riding which helps me in keeping my relatively good physical and mental health.

Quickly, I support the 12inch snow minimum, I mean whose rides their expensive sled on less than that? Also, support improved parking along 395 and absolutely think and know the numbers of OSV's going up to Minerat Ridge are much lower than some people are quoting . We snowshoe the road up during full moons and love it, but enjoy taking newbies up there on our sleds for the views.

Anyway, appreciate the opportunity to comment and I vote access for all.

Jim Clement