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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Inyo National Forest,

Thank you for providing for public input, and for recognizing the current heavily used nordic areas around Mammoth.

I live in the Bay Area, and most of my nordic skiing is in the Tahoe area. From my experience there, I can tell you that it is very important to provide a sound barrier of at least a half-mile between nordic and OHV areas, as in the winter, sound seems to carry better and OHVs can be heard a long way away.

I strongly support the Snowlands recommendations for changes in Shady Rest and Sherwins.

Although I rarely nordic ski on the East side, I have found some of the areas around the shores of Mono Lake to be wonderful ski terrain. I would like to see at least a small area set aside for nordic skiing at either the north or south side of Mono Lake.

Given research that shows even as minimal an impact as bringing dogs into an area can cause up to a 50% reduction in wildlife, along with recent studies that have found a precipitous decline in insects and bird species everywhere, I'm concerned that you're opening up almost all of the non-wilderness area of the park to unconstrained usage. I would like to see a monitoring plan in place to guarantee that allowing OHV usage does not significantly impact wildlife presence and use of the non-wilderness areas of the National Forest, by setting aside a study area where there is no nearby OHV use to compare to an area where OHV use is allowed. In addition to wildlife, I think it's also important to monitor the impact on plant communities of OHV use because of potential of snow compaction or direct physical contact from OHV.

My final comment as a nordic skier is that the map overwhelmingly provides access to OHV with no areas other than the two small ones near Mammoth reserved for nordic skiing. I would like to see another area reserved for nordic skiers (perhaps at Mono Lake, as noted above).