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Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am the author of Ski Tours In The Sierra Nevada. Volume 4 specifically covers "east of the Sierra Crest" and that includes the areas being considered in the Inyo OSV Designation Process. I consider myself very well versed on the lay of the land on the Inyo.

In general, all the lands west of Highway 395 from Rock Creek and June Lake Junction are prime cross-country and back-country sites. The Forest Service should scrutinize any part of this area before opening it to OSV use.

There are locations within this area that may justify OSV use. For example a corridor from the Shady Rest staging area to the beyond the Nordic trails adjacent to the staging area, and in the Inyo Craters area themselves.

But the Mammoth Lakes Basin and the Obsidian Dome areas should be 100% non-motorized. The Obsidian Dome staging area provides access not only to beginner winter experiences, but also the route into higher elevations such as Glass Flow Meadow and the surrounding peaks. These are the main two non-motorized areas on the East Side and any OSV routes in or adjacent to them will utterly destroy the character that skiers and snowshoers seek.

The Rock Creek area has historically been the destination for skier and snowshoers who desire access to the base of the Sierra's majestic high peaks. It has also been designated non-motorized in the past. There should be no inroads to OSV use in this area in the forth-coming plan.

The Sherwin area has been controversial since Dave McCoy proposed ski lifts for the area. The people of Mammoth were against it and in the ensuing years the bowls here have become a destination for tele-skiers. It should be designated non-motorized in the forth-coming plan to preserve the solitude and high quality of the snow that locals and visitors alike come to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Marcus Libkind