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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Inyo National Forest (INF) Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) Use Designation scoping documents.

The town of Mammoth Lakes has become increasingly popular and increasingly crowded over the last several years. My primary concern is the potential overlap of incompatible uses, particularly in areas close to town and staging areas for access to wilderness lands. While I realize that there is a need for access to natural lands for both motorized and non-motorized recreationists, in order to create safe and enjoyable opportunities for both groups there must be places designated for each.

In my personal experience, there are a number of scenarios where the unique uses of motorized and non-motorized activities are in direct conflict. It would seem that there are plenty of available solutions to minimize these potential conflicts and still leave very significant areas available for all to enjoy as they see fit.

For example: my family enjoys hiking and snowshoeing with our dogs in INF backcountry. We keep our dogs on leash when in populated and staging areas, but under voice command in the backcountry. We make the effort to find places where we will not be at risk of having a motorized vehicle surprise us or our animals (and, similarly, we would not want either ourselves or our dogs to surprise a fast moving vehicle). We practice the same behaviors in the summer, in order to avoid mountain bikers, etc. Knowing that there are designated areas for such unique uses would be a great benefit for the community.

While this is a very specific use case, the same can be said for back-country skiers and snowshoers. The risk for injury from collisions or unexpected changes in the snow pack in the back country only highlights the need for separate use areas where possible.

There is adequate space in our broader geographic community to delineate motorized from non-motorized, understanding that in areas farther out in the wilderness those designations may not exist.

I know there are other examples but this felt the most concrete to me to be able to articulate how the public can best share these open spaces. Without clear delineation, there is a high likelihood of creating situations where people will come upon use conflicts unknowingly. Please provide appropriate use designations and give people the appropriate information and direction so they can enjoy our beautiful wild lands with confidence.