

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/20/2023 11:04:45 PM

First name: Emilie

Last name: Strauss

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Inyo NF (INF)-

I am writing to oppose the potentially massive opening of much of northern INF to over snow vehicles (OSV) (Over-Snow Vehicle Use #61466).

Over the last 40 years, I have spent a substantial amount of my vacation time (as well as lived full-time) in Mono County. There, I have hiked, done several saddle trips, birdwatched, and engaged in cross country skiing.

Snow machines rip up the snow on roads, making it difficult to cross country ski. Additionally, the noise and high speed disturbance when one is trying to ski is extremely disruptive and ruins, the "nature baiting" experience that is more and more difficult to enjoy in California.

Potential for wildlife disturbance is very high. Winter surveys for Bi-state Sage Grouse beyond what has been done for leks must be conducted prior to initiating opening of these roads to snow machines. There are, for example, sage grouse in the White Mountains. In the Mono Basin, do Conway Ranch grouse move into the areas south of 167 near Mono City that are proposed for snow machine use? Do Parker Meadows grouse (Mono Basin) utilize proposed OSV trails in the Mono Basin? Has the Adobe Hills/ Montgomery Pass been surveyed for sage grouse? Ditto for grouse use in the area east of Crowley--an area world famous and well-recognized as critical for sage grouse. I have attended multiple Sage Grouse Working Group meetings. This species is "on the edge " facing declines for most of the population units.

Many other species such as pygmy rabbit, wintering mule deer, pronghorn, wintering rough-legged hawks and northern shrikes, and mountain quail would be impacted.

This is an unreasonably and preposterously large area to open to OSV use.

There would be multiple significant impacts to wildlife, solitude, bird watching, and cross-country skiing.

Please go back to the drawing board and eliminate 90% of the proposed roads and routes to be opened.

Thank you,

Emilie Strauss