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First name: Vicki

Last name: Olds

Organization: CSERC

Title:

Comments: From: Vicki Olds [mailto:volds@studioreflex.com]

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 12:38 PM

To: Ashmead, Phyllis -FS

Cc: johnb@cserc.org

Subject: Only Permitted Snowmobile Rides for Non-county Residents

Dear OSV Team Lead Phyllis Ashmead;

I am disturbed by the new plan that proposes to open 13,000 acres of roadless wild areas, in addition to 156 miles of groomed and engrossed routes throughout 141,073 acres in the Stanislaus National Forest, to snowmobile riders.

<http://www.cserc.org/news/stanislaus-forest-proposes-open-wild-roadless-areas-snowmobile-use>

Why? Because snowmobiles are air-polluting fossil-fuel hogs; loud and intrusive in fragile alpine winter environments for people (enjoying the peace and quiet), plants and animals alike; and inexperienced joy-riders are a danger, typically out just once a year (or in their lifetime) to see how fast they can go without hurting themselves.

For generations, my family has enjoyed camping, backpacking and skiing throughout the wilds of the Sierras. When I was 12 yrs. old, my parents moved us from Redwood City to Placerville, CA and I took up alpine skiing and winter survival courses. I taught skiing at Heavenly in 1978 while living on the south shore of Lake Tahoe and cross-county skied with friends in the outback whenever we could-still do.

I can tell you that the vast majority of backcountry sport fans I know are against snowmobiles in the wilderness unless for obvious utility, safety, emergency rescue or other responsible reasons. Joy riders should be limited to snow parks and tracks built for people that want to experience the thrill. If an OSV outback experience is desired, this recreation should be regulated with a stiff permit process for non-county residents, and/or available only through a permitted guide outfit on public lands.

I am a lifelong winter and desert sports enthusiast, NOLS WMI certified, outdoor multi-day trips leader for ppl ages "8- to 88-yrs. old", amateur scientist and environment activist, among other things. I hope you and everyone has a chance to experience the wonder of day(s) and night(s) in a snow-laden, pristine wilderness with friends, plants and other stirring winter creatures, unsullied by the noise, smell (air pollution) and generally irresponsible attitude of OSV joy riders that I have encountered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Truly,

Vicki Olds

415-221-2830

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