

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/30/2015 12:00:00 AM

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Comments: From: Keri Green [mailto:kgreen@mind.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2015 11:06 AM

To: Ashmead, Phyllis -FS

Subject: Comments on STF OSV proposal

July 30, 2015

Dear Ms. Ashmead,

I am writing regarding the Stanislaus National Forest's "Over-Snow-Vehicle" plan. I oppose several aspects of the plan and wish my comments to be considered in the Forest's decision.

Snowmobiles should not have extensive access to critical habitat at higher elevations. The OSV proposal is in direct conflict with the Forest Plan which states "Near Natural" areas are to be managed for semi-primitive non-motorized use. Remote areas should be maintained for the values of benefitting wildlife and quiet recreation activities that do not threaten habitat and create a ruckus in the natural environment.

Allowing proximate access to higher elevation wild areas increases the chances that OSVs will cross into true wilderness. OSV users cannot be given the benefit of the doubt when it comes to knowledge of boundaries. The USFS doesn't have the financial or staffing capability to patrol these areas, and people will take advantage of the opportunity before them. Whatever benefit might be obtained by a small number of OSV users will be a detriment to the values the Forest Service is entrusted to maintain for the larger good.

Multiple Use does not mean Special Use. Snowmobilers are a small percentage of forest users. The OSV proposal suggests this interest group has successfully applied pressure within the Forest Service. I believe this proposal compromises the Forest Service's management philosophy and gives overly broad concessions to one industry/recreation user group.

Whatever we have left is gone. When what is left of the small populations of wild animals is gone, they are gone for good. When what is left of the small acreage where one can find peace and quiet is gone, it is gone for good. Gasoline engines are a direct cause of climate change which is affecting the amount of snowfall and the elevations at which it occurs. It is ironic that in seeking OSV activities, users want to open higher and higher elevations because of the lack of snowfall at accustomed lower elevations. OSV users should accept climate change as the detrimental factor affecting their sport, and not expect the Forest Service to assist their pursuit by allowing further press into higher elevations where remaining sensitive habitats exist on a thread.

Motorized activities are simply unsuitable at higher elevations in the Sierras. OSV users should not receive special interest consideration.

Sincerely,

Keri Green

Eugene, OR