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Comments: From: Charles Little [mailto:barcaabuelo@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 1:25 PM

To: Ashmead, Phyllis -FS

Subject: Snowmobiles in Roadless Areas

Hi Phyllis,

It's been a long time! I was up on the Stan two weeks ago and (just because it was in the best shape of any of my maps) was using a recreation map, overlaid with the Forest's roadless areas. Now I am very surprised to learn that you are proposing to open up three of those areas to snowmobiles. I am a cross-country skier, and increasingly my enjoyment of National Forests in the winter is destroyed by snowmobiles. And these are not only snowmobiles riding where they are allowed, but very, very loud machines going outside their boundaries into the areas where they are prohibited.

I am sure that you are aware that many of these riders are either ignorant, or simply ignore the rules. In addition, it is crystal clear that you do not have the enforcement personnel to keep the snowmobiles on track, and waiting for the right levels of snow cover.

Finally, as a person who no doubt joined the Forest Service because of your love of the forest and the natural world, I am also sure that you are aware that quiet, near natural, roadless areas are rapidly diminishing. Let's do our part to save what is left.

Relatedly, on my trip over the Stanislaus last week I visited Bell Meadows. There you can see an example of the Forest, and the permittee, working together to protect these meadows. They, and the creek, are in great shape! I would think that you would like to see the same effect achieved in the Forest's few remaining roadless areas. Let's not allow internal combustion engines everywhere!

thanks for your attention to my concerns,  
Charles S. Little

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West Marin Youth Soccer League Board

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