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Organization:

Title:

Comments: From: Sheri Delvin [mailto:sheri.delvin@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2015 11:54 AM

To: Ashmead, Phyllis -FS

Subject: Over-Snow-Vehicle Comments

Stanislaus Forest "Over-Snow-Vehicle Use" plan

Dear Ms. Ashmead,

My name is Sheri Delvin. I will be out of town on July 21 and July 22 and unable to attend the Over-the Snow public meetings so I am sending my comments and concerns on this proposed plan.

I have owned property in the Cedar Ridge area of Sonora for over 30 years and have lived here for 6 years. Our home is on the boundary of Stanislaus National Forest and I have the privilege of hiking and walking in it's beauty every day. I also have seen and experienced the consequences of areas that are frequented by motorized vehicles.

In looking into this issue I understand that at present snowmobiles have the privilege of using over 140,000 acres within the Stanislaus National Forest. I am especially opposed to opening up an additional 13,000 acres for snowmobile use when those acres include Pacific Valley and Eagle/Night Near Natural areas. These areas have previously been closed to motorized recreation and in fact have been identified by the Stanislaus Forest Plan as of 'high value for non-motorized recreation'. Once these areas are opened it would be close to impossible to protect them as Wilderness.

Pacific Valley and Eagle/Night Near Natural areas are remote habitat areas and at higher elevations - critical habitat for rare wildlife like the Sierra Nevada red fox and the American marten and for less rare but still important species. I have experienced the deafening and unrelenting noise of motorbikes in the forest area adjacent to our neighborhood. And I have seen the resultant damage to fragile areas where motorbikes have powered through - creating barren areas with no plant life. While I understand that there are many ways to enjoy recreation in Stanislaus Forest it seems to me that remote areas already considered off limits to activity with high impacts on the habitat should not be opened up to such recreation. Keep Pacific Valley and Eagle/Night Near Natural areas closed to snowmobile activity.

Another reason not to open this 13,000 acres to snowmobiles is the unlikely ability to enforce the new boundaries due to budget constraints and understaffing. If the USFS is unable to enforce the boundaries of the current 140,000 acres in use by snowmobilers how will it be able to enforce another 13,000 acres? Especially when these new boundaries do not have clear demarcation such as roads, ridges or streams. This will result in snowmobilers crossing over the extended boundaries into restricted wilderness areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about our National Forest, it's health and wellbeing.

Sincerely

Sheri Delvin