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First name: Victor

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Organization: A concerned citizen

Title:

Comments: I am a cabin owner in the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. I enjoy our National Forest Lands for recreation. One of the forms of recreation I enjoy is backcountry skiing. The area I most frequent are the areas off of Highway 4, the Cabbage Patch trailhead, as well as the trailheads up around Bear Valley and Lake Alpine. I venture far and often enter into the Mokelumne Wilderness and Carson Iceburg Wilderness. I also use the areas off of Highway 108, particularly the Emigrant Wilderness.

When out in the backcountry I seek solitude. Nothing ruins the wilderness experience more than the sights, sounds and smells of over snow vehicles. On numerous journeys, I've seen OSV tracks well into the Wilderness Areas mentioned above.

I am a firm believer of the National Forest Motto, "Land of Many Uses" and am not opposed to the use of OSV. I understand that users of OSV enjoy the backcountry like I do but the two activities really don't mix. A possible solution is to designate areas for OSV's, similar to that of the OHV areas. There could be trails, corridors, and areas. That way, knowing that if I choose to ski in those areas, then I should expect to see and hear OSV's and have no right to complain.

The trails, corridors, or designated areas should be far from any Wilderness boundary to reduce the temptation of a OSV user(s) to venture there. Another area of concern is the area north and east of the Cabbage Patch Trailhead. This trailhead provides outstanding cross country skiing opportunities and the use of OSV's in that area is rising. If the plan is to designate areas open to OSV's then I am opposed to opening this area.