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First name: Robin

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Ashmead,

I am an avid cross-country and backcountry skier in the Stanislaus National Forest and would like to object to Pacific Valley being opened up to OSV. I believe that motorized travel should not be allowed in "near natural" areas. Pacific Valley borders the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness and by opening up Pacific Valley to OSV, I fear that (absent sufficient signage and enforcement) OSV riders will inadvertently encroach on the Wilderness. With the lack of enforcement resources, a better rule set is to allow OSV along the Hwy 4 corridor until Highland Lakes road, from where additional terrain is accessible. This simple rule can easily be self-enforced by responsible riders, including those renting snowmobiles from local businesses.

Further, I strongly urge you not to allow OSV from the Round Valley sno-park. The areas accessible from the Round Valley sno-park are not permitted for OSV use (although there is clear evidence of OSV use in Round Valley and Poison Canyon), and are very popular with family snow play, snowshoers, and skiers. Adding OSV use to this access point will increase danger of accidents and will add to noise and exhaust pollution.

I frequently encounter snowmobilers on the groomed trails and they generally slow down and are courteous to skiers. Both groups can and do co-exist. I believe that clear signage and a simple trail/use map will encourage snowmobilers to stick to the areas designated for OSV use.

Thank you for your consideration of the issues that I highlight.

Robin Hart