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Title:

Comments: Im writing as an avid winter sports enthusiast and cabin owner. I have been in the project area my entire life and have in enjoyed all forms of winter activities from snowmobiling, shoeshoing, back country skiing, and snow camping. The proposed project plans should not even be considered for several reasons. I have been able to backcountry ski and showsoe in the same areas as snowmobiles with no concerns or safety issue what so ever. I have never seen any ill effects from OSV in the project areas that others complain about, be it noise or pollution.

The project has proposed riding areas around the Cherry lake area that look great on paper for snowmobiling and groomed snowmobile trails, but historical never meet the requirements to use OSV for the lack of snowfall at this elevation. The numbers look great on paper as far as acerage available to OSV ethusiasts and groomed trails made available and even better on a map, BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE! To the people who make the decisions about OSV riding areas that are not familiar with the area it looks like a great idea and opens up more available riding area, this is false. It seems like this area was offered to OSV users just to appear good on paper and maps.

The area inside the Herring Creek "loop" is another area where riding area was allowed to OSV use and is not even accesable nor safe to travel by OSVs. The proposed area outside of the Herring Creek "loop" trail extending up to the ridge lines has been great OSV riding area for years. The ridge line is easy to designate boundries and enforce. As a cabin owner I would be very disappointed to see this area deemed near natural.

The riding area near the top of Sonora pass at Deadman creek has been available to OSV as well in years past. The concern for passing over the Pacific Crest Trail in these areas needs to be clearly marked and the natural ridge lines are great boundries to do such.

On the Hwy 108 corridor there should also be consideration to establish more snow parks at higher elevations as other places in the Sierra. There are several areas to do such at Egales Meadow turn off and Kenndy Meadows turn off. This would make the snow depth at these elevations satisfactory to OSV use where years of snowfall at lower elevations is minimal. It would be nice to see this considered as road closure could fluctuate at these points a snowfall conditions allow.

I believe we snow sport ethusiasts can find a way to make all involved "happy".