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Title:

Comments: From: Elaine Gorman [mailto:vevado@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 09, 2015 10:03 PM

To: Ashmead, Phyllis -FS

Subject: comment for Over-Snow Vehicle Use

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to the Stanislaus National Forest plan to open up areas in the forest to snowmobile use. I am an avid backpacker, hiker, snow-shoer, and cross country skier. These activities are quiet and non-intrusive. These activities are enjoyed best when they are far from noise, particularly motors and engines. These activities have minimal impact on the environment. I am concerned that your proposals will have a negative impact on the environment, wildlife, and on those who enjoy non-motorized recreation.

I recently backpacked south of Sonora Pass on the Pacific Crest Trail to Latopie Lake. On the saddle and slopes above the lake there were orange plastic pipes, supposedly used to designate wilderness from snowmobile use. They were scattered helter-skelter on the ground. Does anyone from the Forest Service monitor the placement/removal of these markers? Does law enforcement adequately assess legal use of snowmobiles in the Leavitt Lake area? If not, why open additional areas of the forest to snowmobile use?

Wilderness, roadless areas, and natural areas are precious resources which must be maintained for the future. Wildlife and healthy ecosystems depend on these rapidly shrinking vestiges of our natural heritage. People depend on these areas for pure water, clean air, and recreation. We must protect and conserve what is left for the next generations.

I urge you to keep all non-motorized areas of the forest in their current condition. Please do not open up additional areas of the forest to snow mobiles and other motorized uses.

Thank you,

Elaine Gorman

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