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Comments: From: Aaron Johnson [mailto:aaron@mtadventure.com]

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:00 PM

To: Ashmead, Phyllis -FS

Subject: Stanislaus National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Comments

Hello Phyllis Ashmead,

My name is Aaron Johnson and I am an Alpine County resident and business owner in Bear Valley, CA. I also manage a Special Use Permit with the Stanislaus National Forest for my company Mountain Adventure Seminars (MAS) to operate winter backcountry skiing and snowboarding, plus avalanche education, and mountaineering programs. I would like to submit comments on the proposed OSV Plan but unfortunately the USFS website is not accepting comments even though it is still August 10th, albeit late in the evening. Hopefully these comments will be accepted.

Comments:

1) Thank you for supplying a detailed map which outlines the proposal. During the past two public meeting I commented that decisions made without a topographical map are difficult at best. Once again thank you for making these changes to your presentation

2) This plan does not address education or enforcement. This plan needs an outline of efforts and funds to address these topics. Without planned information dissemination or enforcement this proposal will fail.

3) I am very concerned that the summer dirt jeep road leading out from the Round Valley SnowPark is designated as OSV accessible. Such designation encourages illegal riding into the surrounding Near Natural areas, including direct access to the Mokelumne Wilderness boundary. In addition, OSV travel in this area will diminish the non-motorized experience as the road is the safest route, with regard to avalanche hazard, for all users and OSV use here will lead to user conflicts as this is the most readily accessible day use area for non motorized users.

4) The southeastern Near Natural boundary in Woodchuck Basin should be extended approximately 0.5 mile to discourage Near Natural area encroachment and direct access to the Mokelumne Wilderness boundary.

5) While the "open riding" designation of Stanislaus Meadow area is easier to understand and manage (versus a 12" or 24" snow coverage designation), the boundary should be re-evaluated to make sure it follows geographic and topographical landmarks that are easily interpreted by an OSV user.

6) Opening the Pacific Valley Road which is surrounded by the Near Natural areas invites users to violate the rules without enforcement readily occurring. The Near Natural areas of Pacific Valley will require an immediate Forest Order to become effective, and will in turn require an immediate enforcement and education effort from the Stanislaus. Is the forest staff prepared for this required action? If not, this area should be either opened or closed entirely.

Thank you for making the proposal available and for drafting more informative maps. Thank you for soliciting and reviewing my comments.

Aaron Johnson