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Comments:

I live at Trout Lake and have ben visiting the trails in this area often over the past 20 years.

I have personally watched the quality of the trails deteriorate during this time as they have become more heavily used by dirt bikes. In particular, East Fork, the Calico Trail, East and West Fall Creeks, Grindstone, and the Winter Trail have all seen serious degradation. The ruts are deep, large rocks are displaced, and the mud sinks do not dry up during an entire summer season.

The terrain, weather conditions and maintenance resources here simply do not support the impact of a motorized-use trails. I hope the decision makers have had a chance to visit these places first hand. The volunteer projects by members of PAPA and the SJTR have helped, but do not come close to mitigating the extensive impacts of motorized use. It is not sustainable or manageable. While these groups are organized to protect their access, the hikers, fishermen, hunters, horseback riders and mountain bikers who use these trails are not similarly organized to protect the quality of the trails or habitat of wildlife.

Wetlands, areas that collect seasonal drainage, and alpine tundra are all inappropriate places for frequent travel by dirt bikes. And once the trail is open, there seems to be no way to limit the quantity of traffic. I have already seen dirt bikes on the Calico trail this year during a period when it was supposedly "closed".

For these reasons, I hope you will elect Alternative "E" to limit motorized use as much as possible.

Thank you for considering my comments.

(my physics address at Trout Lake is 40 Sheep Mountain Drive)