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Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter from the warm and sunny state of California. I want to make clear that I believe any user has the right to use the national Forest for whatever they want to do. The forest's are meant to be used and recreated in. Furthermore, I think it's important to note that not all users of our Nation Forest's are local to the national forests they care about or recreate in. That should be taken very seriously as I myself spends 10's of thousands of dollars to go recreate all around the country and the world. That is what I enjoy doing, and I take pride in the fact that I can help small communities (similar to one I grew up in) continue their way of life with my investment in their economy.

I do not think it justifiable to close any part of the forest for OSV access to make way for Wilderness, "quiet areas", or near natural designations. The access for OSV should remain open and the areas should continue to be shared by all users of the forests. We should work together to highlight areas of concern or conflict ( never in 25 years have I seen a conflict in person), so that all users feel respected. It think the deeper access to wilderness can be designated for OSV and the closer access for non-motorized, but with pass through access for OSV. Highlighting the fact that trail grooming is often paid for by registration and club fees of OSV not non motorized users. This trail grooming is needed for non-motorized access more than for OSV access.

I think it is important to note that global warming is real. The winters have become warmer and warmer. There is a reason why I spend thousands traveling all around is because California doesn't have any snow like it used to. The trail access to the higher elevations needs to be enhanced to deal with a higher elevation snow of Alaska. Failure to address this causes a lot of issues over the long term. improvements to staging areas would greatly increase both non motorized and OSV access to the areas where they recreate during the early and late stages of winter. Possibly even during the normal major winter months.

To summarize,

I do not support closing areas to OSV access

I do not support closing staging areas because lack of snow as low elevation due to global warming

I believe in creating more access

I believe in working with all groups to make conflicts low

I believe in coming up with more options that better reflect all users of the forest, not just the most vocal.

Thank you,

-Travis Cockcroft