



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Stanislaus National Forest

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File Code: 1950

Date: June 26, 2015

Dear Interested Citizen,

The Forest Service is beginning to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the designation of over-snow vehicle (OSV) use on the Stanislaus National Forest (STF). The analysis to be documented in the EIS is needed to comply with Subpart C-Use by Over-Snow Vehicles, of the Forest Service Travel Management Rule (36 CFR part 212) and to comply with a Settlement Agreement between the Forest Service and Snowlands Network et al. The Settlement Agreement requires the Forest Service to analyze the effects of grooming snow trails for OSV use.

The Forest Service's goal in designating OSV use on the STF is to provide access, minimize impacts to natural resources, avoid conflicts among various uses, and provide for the safety of all visitors. OSV use that is inconsistent with this designation would be prohibited under 36 CFR 261.14. The overall objective of this proposal is to provide a manageable system of roads, trails and areas designated for OSV use within the STF, consistent with and to achieve the purpose of the Forest Service Travel Management Rule at 36 CFR part 212.

At the public meetings held last fall and earlier this winter, we listened to your interests and concerns. Since then, we have worked hard to balance the desires of our diverse stakeholders. The Proposed Action represents that effort, which serves as a point from which to continue dialog with you about this project. A detailed description of the Proposed Action is attached. The information you share during the 45 day scoping period will be instrumental in formulating alternative actions in the EIS for consideration prior to a decision.

At this time, a decision has not been made regarding this project. We encourage you to review the attachment. Please let us know if you have concerns (points of dispute, debate or disagreement regarding potential effects of the Proposed Action) or suggestions on how concerns might be resolved. To assure your comments are fully considered during the scoping phase of this project, please submit comments by August 10, 2015. Additional comments are welcome throughout the planning process.

We encourage you to submit written comments electronically using the "Comment on Project" button available on the right hand side of the screen on the project webpage: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46311> You may also submit electronic comments via a web-based collaborative map. More information on this tool and how to use it is available on the project webpage.



Written comments may be sent to: Phyllis Ashmead, Stanislaus OSV Project Team Leader, Stanislaus National Forest 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, and CA 95370, 209-532-3671, ext. 322. Comments may also be sent via facsimile to 209-533-1890, Attn: Phyllis Ashmead.

We will use significant issues and other ideas we receive to develop alternatives to the Proposed Action. A series of public meetings and a stakeholder workshop is being planned during the 45-day comment period. More information will be made available as meeting locations, dates and times are confirmed.

For additional background and supporting information related to this project, please visit the project website provided above. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Phyllis Ashmead.

We appreciate your interest in this effort and look forward to a continued dialogue with you on the STF Over-Snow Vehicle Use Designation Project.

Sincerely,



For: JEANNE HIGGINS  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure: STF OSV proposed action and map

cc: Phyllis Ashmead