

**Sierra County
Board of Supervisors'
Agenda Transmittal &
Record of Proceedings**

MEETING DATE: January 3, 2017	TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Timed <input type="checkbox"/> Consent
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DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors
APPROVING PARTY: Lee Adams, Supervisor, District 1
PHONE NUMBER: 530-289-3295

AGENDA ITEM: Continued discussion/action regarding letter from Steve Traverso, Sierra Buttes Snowbusters pertaining to the Tahoe National Forest Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) Proposal.

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: Memo Resolution Agreement Other

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

FUNDING SOURCE:
GENERAL FUND IMPACT: No General Fund Impact
OTHER FUND:
AMOUNT: \$ N/A

ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED?

 Yes, -- --
 No

IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET? Yes No

IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED? Yes No

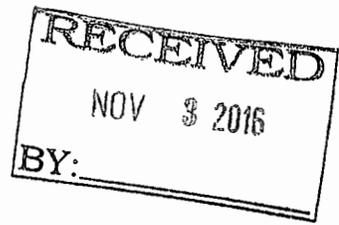
SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE

<p>BOARD ACTION:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Action Taken	<input type="checkbox"/> Set public hearing For: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direction to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Continued to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Authorization given to: _____	Resolution 2016- _____ Agreement 2016- _____ Ordinance _____ Vote: Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent: <input type="checkbox"/> By Consensus
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COMMENTS:

CLERK TO THE BOARD

DATE



The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Sierra County
Downieville, Ca

Nov 2, 2016

Re: Tahoe National Forest OSV Proposal

Honorable Board Members:

The Sierra Buttes Snowbusters' members have become increasingly concerned about the strong possibility of the Forest Service amending their regulations with respect to OSV (over the snow vehicle) use. This of course was prompted by the recent lawsuit by Snowlands Network and other environmental organizations in the past few years.

The Snowbusters are grateful for the support of the Board at the Forest Service meetings last spring and their letter to the Forest Service expressing their concerns. However, it is becoming increasingly clear to us that unless a rigorous campaign to fight the proposed regulations continues, the outcome will be a detriment to snowmobilers and our community as a whole in Sierra County.

Our concern is exemplified by the recent Lassen National Forest OSV draft resolution that was recently released. This resolution proposed the elimination of over 63,000 acres of OSV usage. Much of this acreage is in areas that have historically been exclusively used by Snowmobiles. We are fearful that if this draft is approved by the Forest Service, which is expected to be announced on November 13, it may be used as a "template" for the additional forests in California that are currently under review.

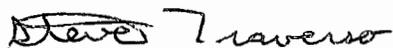
In addition to the above, Snowlands Network has proposed further restrictions to the Lakes Basin area. Perhaps the most detrimental is the requirement to have BAT (best available technology) for any snowmobile on Gold Lake Highway. This would

eliminate over 90% of the snowmobiles in California, let alone the snowmobiles in Sierra County. In addition to this requirement, they propose a further reduction in acreage allowed for OSV usage as "there have been conflicts with snowmobilers and skiers on Gold Lake Highway" As such they propose closing the Sardine Lakes area as well as other areas to OSV usage. We have asked for details on these purported conflicts and the Service has admitted they have just anecdotal reports.

Suffice it to say, if our concerns become reality, it will have substantial impact on Sierra County. Winter commerce in our County is meager at best. Prohibiting or restricting snowmobile use will be the "death knell" to whatever activity remains. In addition, many of the homeowners in the Sierra City/Bassetts area purchased their homes due to the incredible snowmobiling possibilities in the environs of Sierra County. Whether these families would move to another area is unknown. What cannot be debated, is the fact that winter activity will be effectively eliminated. Gone will be any revenue to the merchants, the motels, grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, and our local snowmobile shop. Of course concomitant to this is a rather substantial reduction in TOT and sales tax revenue, which our County can ill afford.

The purpose of this letter is to implore the Board of Supervisors to continue to do whatever possible to prevent the Forest Service from denying our access to OUR Forests. We feel that is is a critical time, perhaps our last opportunity, to try to retain the "status quo" Please let our organization know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Steve Traverso

On behalf of the Snowbusters