



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe
National Forest

Bridgeport Ranger District
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Dear National Forest Users,

In recent years I have become aware of increasing numbers of people snowmobiling and trailbike riding in the West Hoover Wilderness Planning Area, south of Highway 108 and east of Sonora Pass. With increasing numbers of OHVs and the advent of more powerful machines, intrusions into the adjacent Congressionally designated Wilderness areas are also occurring. As a result of these observations, I initiated a course of action this winter to educate snowmobilers and other OHV users about a long standing ban on vehicle use in the area.

As you know, there has been an overwhelming response by many individuals to my efforts to inform users about the closures. I want to let you know, I have heard what you have said.

I understand that snowmobilers are drawn to the area because of the consistent snow pack and incredible terrain; that the physical impacts of snowmobile use are generally transitory and disappear with the melting snow; that local businesses are eager to expand their clientele; and that the lack of previous enforcement has created expectations of future use.

I have also heard from those who continue to assert their desire for Wilderness designation and express frustration over the absence of enforcement.

While I am not lifting the closures, I can promise you that the Forest will look at the issue of snowmobiling in the West Hoover Wilderness Planning Area again during the Forest Plan Revision process. The Revision is just beginning on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The process, and hopefully your participation, will be highly visible over the next several years.

In the interim, there are two circumstances where I must continue to take action. The Forest will not accept motorized encroachments into Congressionally designated Wilderness or tolerate instances where vehicles are causing resource damage.

I have no simple solutions to address the divergent views on this issue. I do hope to bring all points of view to the same table. I ask that you pursue your interests constructively and recognize the rights of other to do likewise.

Further information on this subject will be posted on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/htnf.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kathleen Lucich
KATHLEEN LUCICH
District Ranger

