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**File Code:** 2300; 1900  
**Date:** February 23, 2016

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations and Agencies:

The USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) is initiating the environmental planning process to designate National Forest areas for Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) use. This process is described in agency regulations as Travel Management, Subpart C (36 CFR Part 212). This process will result in the development of a LTBMU Over-Snow Vehicle Use Map (OSVUM) and improved motorized and non-motorized winter recreation opportunities for visitors. This project is intended to be a comprehensive winter recreation planning effort and will consider access, motorized and non-motorized winter recreation opportunities, and other improvements.

I would like to use this announcement as an opportunity to build upon our list of stakeholders who are interested in the process. You are invited to review our current Snowmobile Guide at the link below, participate in collaborative public dialog and submit your preliminary comments to me about this planning effort.

During the planning process, existing OSV and winter recreation opportunities will not be modified. Existing special use authorizations involving OSV and winter recreation opportunities may continue, however, changes in scope or intensity of use will not be authorized. New special use authorizations for winter uses will not be considered until the planning process is completed.

The current LTBMU OSV guide can be found on the LTBMU website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ltbmu/SnowmobileGuide>, or available at the Forest Supervisor's Office front desk at 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, California.

### **History/Background:**

For decades, the LTBMU has designated OSV use in areas through a series of Winter Vehicle Restriction Orders. During our Forest Plan Revision process, we heard from stakeholders that there is a need to consider changes in the current management of winter recreation opportunities.

In 2013, the LTBMU started a winter recreation collaboration effort with multiple winter recreation user groups. The intent was to have the user groups work together to come up with a proposal for me to consider in the winter travel management process. Though a collaborative proposal was not fully developed, many issues and opportunities were identified. With this information in mind, the LTBMU is now taking steps to move forward with its winter travel management planning process.

### **Timing:**

We will hold informational open houses starting in March 2016. Meetings will be held at the following locations and times:

- LTBMU Forest Supervisors Office (35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA) – March 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm.



- North Tahoe Event Center (8318 North Lake Boulevard, Kings Beach, CA) – April 5<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm.
- Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Supervisors Office (1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV) – April 19<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm.

As a start, the open houses will be informational with a chance to ask questions of forest staff and opportunities to provide feedback.

Travel Management, Subpart C will analyze the site-specific action of designating areas for OSV use. The LTBMU would like to engage stakeholders collaboratively prior to beginning the formal NEPA process. The environmental analysis for this project will not occur until I am satisfied that the public has been adequately notified of the pending future decision and that sufficient time has been afforded for collaborative public dialog. NEPA sets forth specific requirements for formal public involvement once the official scoping period has started.

**How to Comment and Timeframe:**

With this notification, the process is beginning. Based on the level of interest and range of comments a proposed action will be developed. Comments that include reasons for the change to the existing condition are most helpful. This notice is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this project with an opportunity to make their concerns known. If you have information the Forest Service may not be aware of, or feel you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding winter recreation management, please send your comments to Jeff Marsolais, c/o Winter Travel Management, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 or to [comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us) using subject: OSVUM. Comments would be most helpful if received by May 2, 2016. There will also be opportunities to provide comments at the public meetings in March/April.

Sincerely,



JEFF MARSOLAIS  
Forest Supervisor