

March 30, 2009

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Subject: Public Comment on Preliminary Grant Application
77-5352126 USES – Humboldt- Toiyabe National Forest

As a Member of the Citizens Alpine County Winter Recreation Plan Committee, I make the following comments regarding this Preliminary Application:

1. This application has serious errors that need correction for resubmital and any support by myself or the California Nevada Snowmobile Association.
2. The Grant refers to Expansion of the SnoPark. This needs to be corrected to just refer to providing adjacent Overnite RV style parking and camping. The Calif. SnoPark system is not in a financial position to be expanded. The Budget to Construct this facility , operate and maintain this facility is not SnoPark, but rather Cooperative Grants from OHV Division.
3. Reference to Day Use should be stricken from the Grant. Day Use was never apart of the Plan or a part of the NEPA Process and Decision. Day use would impact the total limited area to be Developed and used for Overnite Camping. The Overnite use area must be Maximized on the limited site.
4. Kiosk should be removed from the Project Application as they are provided already at the South end of the Existing adjacent SnoPark.
5. The Yurt should be removed from the Project and the Application. There was no discussion in the Alpine Co. Winter Rec Plan development or during the NEPA Process to have a Yurt at this facility. This would encourage day use in this area, impact the

available area for Parking . Additionally, Highway 88 is designated as a Federal Scenic Byway. A Yurt structure on Highway 88 would not be appropriate or desired by anyone. A Yurt would not meet Byway Criteria. A Yurt is a Non-Complying Structure. OHV funds should not be allocated for this Structure, there is no Benefit to OHV . Additionally, much time was spent on discussing the Natural shielding of the new parking, this area is limited and should not be reduced by installation of a Yurt.

6. The Proposed Re-Vegetation of the remaining Quarry site is not OHV responsibility. It is outside of the project Area and should be accomplished by other alternative Grant applications to Water District and the Central Sierra Nevada Soil Conservation District, RAC and others. Restoration of the Rock Quarry falls outside of any responsibility of the OHV Grant Program. This needs to be removed from the Grant Application.
7. Referencing item 5 above, references to the Yurt. References to staffing to distribute maps, etc should be removed from the Application.
8. The proposed Budget should be revised appropriately to remove the above items.
9. This facility would be Constructed as a Trail Head Overnite RV limited stay Area. Future funding for O & M could rely on Grants or a Use Fee , which the Forest should consider. Connection to the SnoPark funding would not be possible as the Program is in deficit and not a part of the OHV Cooperative Grants funding.

In conclusion, the Basic project was planned by the Winter Rec Committee and part of the Forest Decision in August of 2007. What is included in this application does not meet the Original outline or Intent. Upon modification of the Grant application, we would support the Grant, if the changes above are met in the Resubmital.

Respectfully,



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