

March 27, 2014

USFS-Stanislaus National Forest
Attn: Susan Skalski, Chuck James, Sue Warren
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370

RE: Grant Application 2013-2014, CA OHV Grant & Cooperative Agreements Program

Dear Stanislaus National Forest Representatives:

I am commenting on your Ground Operations grant application as a property owner in Big Prather Meadow (Liberty Hill and Tamarack quads). I think it's great that Stanislaus National Forest is applying for grant funds in order to repair and maintain OHV recreation sites, including the Liberty Hill area. It will allow for OHV users to continue to enjoy recreation in that area while protecting sensitive areas which most people are probably not aware of. However, I have a serious problem with the fact that, to my knowledge, Stanislaus National Forest has made absolutely no effort to contact anyone from the Big Prather Meadow HOA, nor to post any notices near the subdivision gates. As you know, portions of Liberty Hill are on the property line with Big Prather Meadow and many of the HOA members are OHV users. Why, then is Big Prather Meadow not considered to be an interested party or stakeholder? We have commented in the past on the road DEIS and other projects as well. I personally have mailed you a letter, via certified return receipt mail, requesting to be notified of any projects in the Calaveras District. In your grant proposal you indicated that you had not notified the general public, only "distinct stakeholders" consisting of OHV clubs and dealers. The grant requires participation from different groups yet you have only invited one class of stakeholder to participate. What do we have to do to get Stanislaus National Forest to communicate with us so that we have a fair and equal chance to participate in activities affecting our property and our member's recreation activities? I would like to find out more details on the proposed actions at Liberty Hill and at Rattlesnake. I think that Stanislaus National Forest should also consider additional signage at other locations in the Calaveras District, such as the point at which the pavement ends on 5N14 and it meets 6N90 and the intersection where 5N14 meets 6N08 (near 6N27). These are popular staging areas. Many of the routes throughout the forest lack signage, so it can be difficult for OHV users to tell exactly which routes are authorized open routes. Additional signage may also help users to navigate the route system as satellite signals for GPS can be difficult to pick up in some areas. Other HOA members may have additional suggestions, and some may even want to participate in volunteering. If you would please provide me with the details on the proposed actions in the Calaveras ranger district, and allow me and other HOA members to participate, I would greatly appreciate it.



Sincerely,
Stephanie Thompson
sasysdwch@yahoo.com