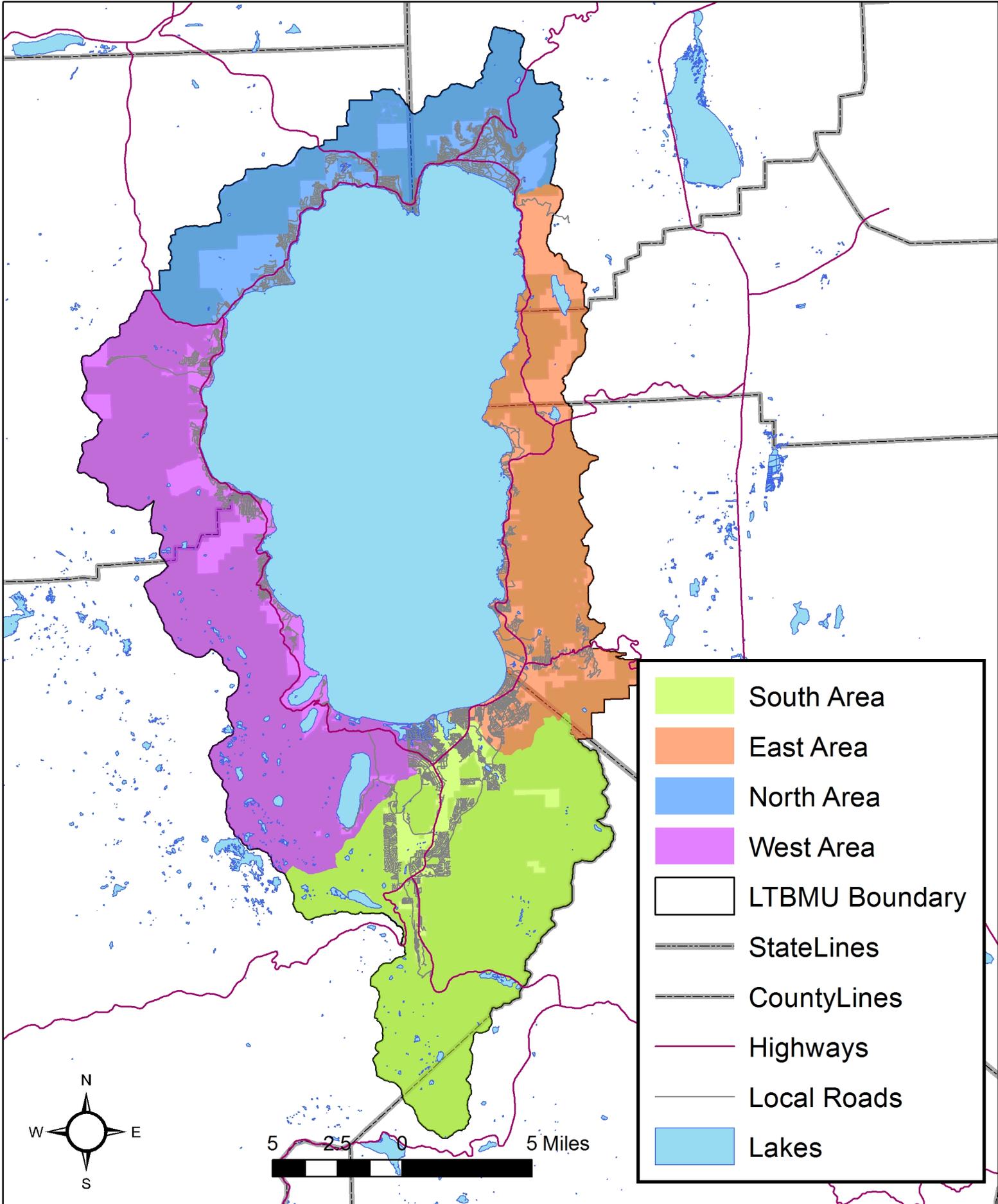


# LTBMU Minimization Criteria Analysis Areas Proposed Action September 2019



**LTBMU – North OSV Area**

General and Specific Criteria for OSV Designated Areas (36 CFR 212.55(a) and (b))

**Table 1. §212.55(b)(1): Minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, and other forest resources**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize impacts on soil and water quality.	Would the area be located in a watershed that is of concern based on the watershed condition assessment map in the Forest Plan FEIS?	No		
	Would the area contain Special Habitats or uncommon plant communities as defines in the LMP?	Yes	Fens located in the area designated open to OSV. Wet saturated areas are more likely to melt out first. Use patterns generally steer clear of the wet areas when they start to melt. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls.  Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.	The fens west of Third Creek were protected by not designating that area as open to OSV use.
	Would the area drain directly into a 303(d)-listed waterbody?	Yes	Lake Tahoe is a 303(d) listed water body for sediment. OSV use is expected over snow pack and research suggests that OSV use does not contribute to sediment contribution. Generally OSV use does not occur over open water, which is what would contribute to sedimentation of water bodies that drain into Lake Tahoe. Because of this, OSV use is not expected to contribute to the 303d listed impairment of sedimentation in Lake Tahoe.  Mitigation: Education of riders about riding on sufficient snowpack and not crossing water bodies that drain into Lake Tahoe.	

**North OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize impacts on vegetation.	Are TEPCS plants known to occur in this area, particularly those that are near, at, or above the surface of the snow?	Yes	Whitebark pine occurs in the areas proposed open to OSV. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls when snowpack is thinnest. Small populations of Draba and Arabis occur in open areas. These areas are typically rocky and high elevation and accessible by only experienced riders. These high elevation areas become covered early in the season and are late to melt out. Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.	The Draba populations west of Third Creek were protected by not designating that area as open to OSV use.
	Would the area include designated botanical areas (SIA, RNA)?	No		
	Impacts from soil compaction on vegetation?	No		Designation of 12" minimum snow depth reduces the potential for soil compaction from OSV use. Staging and parking areas are not allowed on unpaved surfaces.
Minimize impacts on other forest resources.	Would the area contain cultural, tribal, or historic sites?	Yes	Most cultural, tribal, or historic sites would be covered by sufficient snow during the majority of the year. The risk is highest during low snow levels. Minimize impacts: Include a minimum 12" snow depth in order to operate OSV in open areas, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage.	OSV use was not designated at developed recreation sites with historic facilities.
	Would the area contain mineral resources with active claims?	No		

**North OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

**Table 2. §212.55(b)(2): Minimize harassment of wildlife and significant disruption of wildlife habitats**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize harassment of wildlife.	Would the area encompass California spotted owl, and/or northern goshawk PACs that experience more than occasional OSV use and don't experience summer motorized traffic?	yes	<p>Courtship and early nesting begins in March (goshawk) and April (spotted owl). Use begins to decline steeply during these periods. Use patterns often correlate to summer use. Many of the PACs are in areas limited to OSV use due to topography or tree cover. Use during winter months of these PACs is less than in summer months. Birds are more bothered when users stop than when they pass through the area.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Designate the open season for OSV use from November 1 to April 15 to reduce the overlap with nesting and courtship. Incline Creek PAC is in an area designated as open to OSV use only on odd days of the month, reducing the impact of OSVs on the PAC.</p>	First Creek goshawk PAC was not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area encompass known bald eagle nest sites or other designated closure areas?	No		
	Would the area contain a pacific marten den buffer that experiences more than occasional OSV use and doesn't experience summer motorized traffic?	No		
	Would the area contain SNYLF occupied habitat?	No		
	Would the area contain LCT occupied habitat?	No		

**North OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize disruption of wildlife habitats.	Would critical or suitable SNYLF habitat be located in the area?	No critical. Yes suitable	<p>Suitable habitat for SNYLF is located adjacent to water courses and wet areas. Wet saturated areas are more likely to melt out first. Use patterns generally steer clear of the wet areas when they start to melt. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls. Areas adjacent to water courses are often covered with vegetation and difficult to access with OSV. Existing use patterns have not indicated permanent changes to suitable habitat.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Harden and BMP all crossings where OSV users typically cross. Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open soil, about not riding across open vegetation, about riding on insufficient snowpack, and not crossing water courses outside of hardened crossings.</p>	
	Would the area contain occupied or emphasis habitat for willow flycatcher?	Yes	Willow flycatcher migrate from this area during the winter. Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.	

**North OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

**Table 3. §212.55(b)(3): Minimize conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of National Forest System lands or neighboring Federal lands**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of NFS lands	Would OSV use in this area have the potential to cause conflicts with non-motorized visitors' recreation experience in high value areas for backcountry or cross country skiing?	Yes	<p>Areas of potential conflict include the Incline Lake parcel – area east of 3<sup>rd</sup> Creek , the Tyrolian Creek Area/Chickadee Ridge , and Relay Ridge area.</p> <p>Minimize conflicts: allow OSV use only on odd days of the month in the Tyrolian Creek/Chickadee Ridge area. Provide improved signage on where areas are open to OSV use and provide improved education on proper “share the resource” etiquette and “Tread Lightly” ethics for OSVs.</p>	The Tyrolian Creek/Chickadee Ridge area is popular for both OSV users and non-motorized users. Many users of both groups reported conflicts in this area. Allowing OSV use on odd numbered days of the month allows non-motorized users to choose whether they would prefer to recreate without OSVs in the area or they have the option of still using the area on odd days. The area west of Third Creek in the Incline Lake area was not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area encompass areas valued for non-motorized use, including: PCT, Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, ski areas (cross-country, downhill), and/or IRAs, Backcountry MA?	Yes	Areas of Inventory Roadless Area and Backcountry Management Area are open to OSV use. Minimize impacts: no permanent roads or parking areas are proposed or existing in the IRA. No parking areas proposed in Backcountry MA.	OSV use was not designated in ski areas. No PCT, wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Tahoe North minimization criteria area.
Conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of neighboring Federal lands	Would the area abut a wilderness area or other closed areas managed by other agencies?	Yes	<p>Open areas abut wilderness and General Improvement District land.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.</p>	The area between the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) property on the north edge of Incline Village and the Mt. Rose Wilderness was not designated as open to OSV use since both the IVGID property and wilderness are not open to OSV use.

**North OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the area abut an area on an adjacent forest that is closed?	Yes	<p>Areas that are open to OSV and abut adjacent forest that is closed to OSV are separated by obvious topographic features (in most cases, the ridge around the basin).</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.</p> <p>Mitigation in Chickadee ridge area: Open OSV use on odd days of the month only.</p>	
	Would the open area or trail abut a developed recreation site?	No		

**Table 4. §212.55(b)(4): Minimize conflicts among different classes of motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or neighboring federal lands**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize conflicts among different classes of motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or other neighboring federal lands.	Would wheeled vehicle use over snow be allowed in this area? If so, does this affect safety and winter management of this area?	No		

**North OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would OSV use of this area conflict with plowed roads allowing vehicle use? Are road crossings allowed by OSVs?	No		

**Table 5. §212.55(b)(5): Consider compatibility of motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, and other factors.**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider compatibility of motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, and other factors.	Would the area be located adjacent to neighborhoods and communities (Urban lots – Forest Plan pg. 79)?	Yes	<p>Urban lots that were greater than 2 acres and adjacent to an area of general forest that was designated open to OSV were also designated as open to OSV use. This provides consistency on the ground since these parcels are contiguous with the adjacent general forest and lot lines are indistinguishable on the ground.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.</p>	<p>Urban lot parcels that are not adjacent to general forest areas open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use. This clarifies an ambiguity on the previous Snowmobile Guide Map that made it seem like some urban lots were open. Small parcels that were inholdings in areas surrounded by developed areas not open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use.</p> <p>The area west of Incline Village that is open to OSV use was designated with the border along the ridgeline. Areas to the west of the ridgeline are closed to OSV use. Using the ridgeline as the boundary for OSV use makes it easier to understand by riders and prevents unintended impacts on the neighborhoods as riders attempt to get out of a steep area.</p>

**North OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the sounds and emissions from OSV use of this area be incompatible with TRPA noise threshold and state emissions standards of nearby populated areas?	No		

**Table 6. §212.55(a): General criteria for the designation of roads, trails, and areas**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider public safety.	Would safety for motorized and/or non-motorized visitors be a concern for this area?	No		Areas that may have been of concern for safety (such as at Diamond Peak Ski Resort, on urban lots, and in developed recreation sites) were not designated as open to OSV use. Small FS lots that are surrounded by areas not open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use.
Consider provision of recreation opportunities.	Would closure of this area eliminate a unique OSV riding experience?	No closures of unique experience		<p>The area that is currently open and proposed to be closed to the north and west of Incline Village is not high use terrain due to the steep slopes, surrounding areas that are not open to OSV use, and difficulty in accessing FS lands.</p> <p>The Tyrolian Creek/Chickadee Ridge area is considered high quality OSV terrain but is also popular with non-motorized users. This area was designated as open to OSV use on odd days of the month only to allow for unique experiences for both groups to remain.</p>

**North OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would closure of this area eliminate unique destinations for winter users?	No		<p>The area that is currently open and proposed to be closed to the north and west of Incline Village is not considered a unique destination due to the steep slopes, surrounding areas that are not open to OSV use, and difficulty in accessing FS lands.</p> <p>The Relay Ridge area was designated as open to OSV use; this area is considered a unique destination for winter users.</p>
Consider access needs.	Would closure of this area eliminate the connection to desirable OSV opportunities?	No		<p>The area east of Third Creek in Incline Lake is currently closed and is proposed to be open to OSV use. This area provides a connection from the south to the Relay Ridge area that did not previously exist.</p> <p>The areas north and west of Incline Village that are not proposed to be designated as open to OSV did not provide any connections to desirable OSV opportunities because the areas surrounding it is not open to OSV use.</p>
	Would closure of OSV trails eliminate loop opportunities or disconnect open areas?	No		<p>The areas that are proposed to be closed, would not eliminate loop opportunities because these areas abut areas not open to OSV use and there is no loop opportunity.</p>
Consider conflicts among uses of NFS lands.	Would OSV use of this area pose any known issues with valid existing land use rights?	No		
	Would OSV use pose conflicts with other uses in this area, for example permitted special uses?	No new conflicts		<p>A permittee provides OSV tours in the area. The public is not blocked from using the route groomed by the permittee and occasionally conflicts arise between the tours and other users. No changes from existing are proposed.</p>

**North OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider the need for maintenance and administration of the area.	Would signs and/or groomed trails need to be maintained throughout the open season?	No		Any new routes approved would be under special use permit and be the responsibility of the permittee to groom.
	Would the area need to be patrolled by staff or partners?	Yes	The LTBMU currently has an enforcement program for OSV use. Education of users reduces the need for enforcement. Installation of snow stakes at popular access points will help users know when enough snow has fallen to allow OSV use. Georeferenced maps also help users to know if they are in an area open to OSV use.	
Consider the availability of resources for needed area maintenance and administration.	Would partners need to participate in maintenance and/or administration of the area?	No		

**LTBMU – East OSV Area**

General and Specific Criteria for OSV Designated Areas (36 CFR 212.55(a) and (b))

**Table 1. §212.55(b)(1): Minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, and other forest resources**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize impacts on soil and water quality.	Would the area be located in a watershed that is of concern based on the watershed condition assessment map in the Forest Plan FEIS?	No		
	Would the area contain Special Habitats or uncommon plant communities as defined in the LMP?	Yes	<p>One fen located in the area designated open to OSV. Wet saturated areas are more likely to melt out first. Use patterns generally steer clear of the wet areas when they start to melt. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.</p>	
	Would the area drain directly into a 303(d)-listed waterbody?	Yes	<p>303d listing is for sediment in Lake Tahoe. OSV use is expected over snow pack and research suggests that OSV use does not contribute to sediment contribution. OSV use is not expected to contribute to the 303d listed impairment of sedimentation in Lake Tahoe.</p> <p>Mitigation: Education of riders about riding on sufficient snowpack and not crossing water bodies that drain into Lake Tahoe.</p>	

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize impacts on vegetation.	Are TEPCS plants known to occur in this area, particularly those that are near, at, or above the surface of the snow?	Yes	Whitebark pine occurs in the areas proposed open to OSV. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls when snowpack is thinnest. Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.	The Draba populations in the Heavenly Ski Area and Botrychium populations near Marlette Lake were protected by not designating those areas open to OSV use.
	Would the area include designated botanical areas (SIA, RNA)?	No		
	Impacts from soil compaction on vegetation?	No		Designation of 12" minimum snow depth reduces the potential for soil compaction from OSV use. Staging and parking areas are not allowed on unpaved surfaces.
Minimize impacts on other forest resources.	Would the area contain cultural, tribal, or historic sites?	Yes	Most cultural, tribal, or historic sites would be covered by sufficient snow during the majority of the year. The risk is highest during low snow levels. Minimize impacts: Include a minimum 12" snow depth in order to operate OSV in open areas, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage.	OSV use was not designated at the Newhall House at Skunk Harbor or at developed recreation sites with historic facilities.
	Would the area contain mineral resources with active claims?	No		

**Table 2. §212.55(b)(2): Minimize harassment of wildlife and significant disruption of wildlife habitats**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize harassment of wildlife.	Would the area encompass California spotted owl, and/or northern goshawk PACs that are occupied and experience more than occasional OSV use and don't experience summer motorized traffic?	yes	Neither PAC is currently occupied. Courtship and early nesting begins in March (goshawk) and April (spotted owl). OSV use begins to decline steeply during these periods. Use patterns often correlate to summer use. One Goshawk PAC gets limited use. One PAC gets heavy use on trails (Burke NOGO).  Minimize impacts: Designate the open season for OSV use from November 1 to April 15 to reduce the overlap with nesting and courtship.	Secret, Bliss, and Marlette goshawk PACs were not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area encompass known bald eagle nest sites or other designated closure areas?	No		
	Would the area contain a pacific marten den buffer buffer that experiences more than occasional OSV use and doesn't experience summer motorized traffic?	no		Areas near Heavenly Ski Area that have pacific marten dens were not designated as open to OSV
	Would the area contain SNYLF occupied habitat?	No		
	Would the area contain LCT occupied habitat?	No		Marlette Creek is the only occupied LCT stream and it was not designated open to OSV use.

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize disruption of wildlife habitats.	Would critical or suitable SNYLF habitat be located in the area?	No critical. Yes suitable	Suitable habitat for SNYLF is located adjacent to water courses and wet areas. Wet saturated areas are more likely to melt out first. Use patterns generally steer clear of the wet areas when they start to melt. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls. Areas adjacent to water courses are often covered with vegetation and difficult to access with OSV. Existing use patterns have not indicated permanent changes to suitable habitat. Minimize impacts: Harden and BMP all crossings where OSV users typically cross. Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open soil, about not riding across open vegetation, about riding on insufficient snowpack, and not crossing water courses outside of hardened crossings.	OSV use was not designated in critical habitat.
	Would the area contain occupied or emphasis habitat for willow flycatcher?	Yes	Willow flycatcher migrate from this area during the winter. Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.	

**Table 3. §212.55(b)(3): Minimize conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of National Forest System lands or neighboring Federal lands**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of NFS lands	Would OSV use in this area have the potential to cause conflicts with non-motorized visitors' recreation experience high value areas for backcountry or cross country skiing?	No		Areas of high value backcountry access at Heavenly and near Marlette were not designated as open for OSV use.
	Would the area encompass areas valued for non-motorized use, including: PCT, Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, ski areas (cross-country, downhill), and/or IRAs, Backcountry MA?	Yes – IRA and Backcountry Management Area	Areas of Inventory Roadless Area and Backcountry Management Area are open to OSV use. Minimize impacts: no permanent roads or parking areas are proposed or existing in the IRA. No parking areas proposed in Backcountry MA.	OSV use was not designated in ski areas. No PCT, wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Tahoe East minimization criteria area.
Conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of neighboring Federal lands	Would the area abut a wilderness area or other closed areas managed by other agencies?	Yes	Abuts Spooner State Park. Incursions into the State Park are limited by steep topography. Abuts various parcels owned by Douglas County.  Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions on the OSVUM will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.	Areas abutting Lake Tahoe State Park near Marlette were not designated as open to OSV use.

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the area abut an area on an adjacent forest that is closed?	No		
	Would the open area or trail abut a developed recreation site?	Yes – Zephyr Cove Resort	Open OSV use abuts Zephyr Cove Resort. Currently no issues with OSV incursion in Zephyr campground. Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.	With exception of the undeveloped portion of Zephyr Cove Resort, all other developed recreation sites were not designated as open to OSV use and areas adjacent to them were not designated as OSV use.

**Table 4. §212.55(b)(4): Minimize conflicts among different classes of motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or neighboring federal lands**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize conflicts among different classes of motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or other neighboring federal lands.	Would wheeled vehicle use over snow be allowed in this area? If so, does this affect safety and winter management of this area?	No		
	Would OSV use of this area conflict with plowed roads allowing vehicle use? Are road crossings allowed by OSVs?	No		

**Table 5. §212.55(b)(5): Consider compatibility of motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, and other factors.**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Response	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to maintain compatibility?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider compatibility of motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, and other factors.	Would the area be located adjacent to neighborhoods and communities (Urban lots – Forest Plan pg. 79)?	Yes	Urban lots that were greater than 2 acres and adjacent to an area of general forest that was designated open to OSV were also designated as open to OSV use. This provides consistency on the ground since these parcels are contiguous with the adjacent general forest and lot lines are indistinguishable on the ground. Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.	Urban lot parcels that are not adjacent to general forest areas open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use. This clarifies an ambiguity on the previous Snowmobile Guide Map that made it seem like some urban lots were open. Small parcels that were inholdings in areas surrounded by developed areas not open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use.  An area across from Spooner State Park was designated as open to OSV use (currently it is closed). A buffer was provided between the area open to OSV use and the neighborhoods.
	Would the sounds and emissions from OSV use of this area be incompatible with TRPA noise threshold and state emissions standards of nearby populated areas?	No		

**Table 6. §212.55(a): General criteria for the designation of roads, trails, and areas**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Response	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to address the general criteria?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider public safety.	Would safety for motorized and/or non-motorized visitors be a concern for this area?	No		Areas that may have been of concern for safety (such as at Heavenly Ski Resort, on urban lots, and in developed recreation sites) were not designated as open to OSV use. Small FS lots that are surrounded by areas not open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use.
Consider provision of recreation opportunities.	Would closure of this area eliminate a unique OSV riding experience?	No closures of unique experience		The only areas in the LTBMU East Area that are currently opened and proposed to be closed are small areas adjacent or within areas not designated as open to OSV use. It was also clarified that developed recreation sites are closed to OSV use.

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Response	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to address the general criteria?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would closure of this area eliminate unique destinations for winter users?	No closures of unique destination		The only areas in the LTBMU East Area that are currently opened and proposed to be closed are small areas adjacent or within areas not designated as open to OSV use. It was also clarified that developed recreation sites are closed to OSV use. These closures do not block access to any unique destinations.
Consider access needs.	Would closure of this area eliminate the connection to desirable OSV opportunities?	No closures of connectivity from existing		The only areas in the LTBMU East Area that are currently opened and proposed to be closed are small areas adjacent or within areas not designated as open to OSV use. It was also clarified that developed recreation sites are closed to OSV use. These closures do not eliminate connectivity to desirable OSV opportunities.
	Would closure of OSV trails eliminate loop opportunities or disconnect open areas?	No closure of trails or loops proposed		
Consider conflicts among uses of NFS lands.	Would OSV use of this area pose any known issues with valid existing land use rights?	No		
	Would OSV use pose conflicts with other uses in this area, for example permitted special uses?	No new conflicts		A permittee provides OSV tours in the area. The public is not blocked from using the route groomed by the permittee and occasionally conflicts arise between the tours and other users. No changes from existing are proposed.
Consider the need for maintenance and administration of the area.	Would signs and/or groomed trails need to be maintained throughout the open season?	No		Any new routes approved would be under special use permit and be the responsibility of the permittee to groom.

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Response	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to address the general criteria?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the area need to be patrolled by staff or partners?	Yes	The LtBMU currently has an enforcement program for OSV use. Education of users reduces the need for enforcement. Installation of snow stakes at popular access points will help users know when enough snow has fallen to allow OSV use. Georeferenced maps also help users to know if they are in an area open to OSV use.	
Consider the availability of resources for needed area maintenance and administration.	Would partners need to participate in maintenance and/or administration of the area?	No		

**LTBMU – South OSV Area**

General and Specific Criteria for OSV Designated Areas (36 CFR 212.55(a) and (b))

**Table 1. §212.55(b)(1): Minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, and other forest resources**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize impacts on soil and water quality.	Would the area be located in a watershed that is of concern based on the watershed condition assessment map in the Forest Plan FEIS?	Yes	Upper Truckee River: Only a very small section of river is open to OSV use on both sides. OSV use is expected with sufficient snow. Current use patterns do not indicate an issue with soil quality as a result of OSV.  Minimize Impacts: Harden and BMP all crossings where OSV users typically cross. Designate minimum 12” snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open soil or crossing water courses outside of hardened crossings.	The parcels 033-050-14 and 033-050-19 are currently open, but were proposed to not be designated open to OSV use (Upper Truckee flows through these parcels). This area is an inholding and is surrounded by non-FS land.
	Would the area contain Special Habitats or uncommon plant communities as defines in the LMP?	Yes	Fens located in the area designated open to OSV. Wet saturated areas are more likely to melt out first. Use patterns generally steer clear of the wet areas when they start to melt. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls.  Freel pincushion community: This area is not accessible early in the season and access is cut off as the snow melts at lower elevation late in the season.  Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12” snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.	Fens in the Hell Hole area were not designated as open to OSV use.

**South OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the area drain directly into a 303(d)-listed waterbody?	Yes	<p>Lake Tahoe is a 303(d) listed water body for sediment. OSV use is expected over snow pack and research suggests that OSV use does not contribute to sediment contribution. Generally OSV use does not occur over open water, which is what would contribute to sedimentation of water bodies that drain into Lake Tahoe. Because of this, OSV use is not expected to contribute to the 303d listed impairment of sedimentation in Lake Tahoe.</p> <p>Mitigation: Education of riders about riding on sufficient snowpack and not crossing water bodies that drain into Lake Tahoe.</p>	
Minimize impacts on vegetation.	Are TEPCS plants known to occur in this area, particularly those that are near, at, or above the surface of the snow?	Yes	<p>The TES species in this area either occur at high elevation (Draba, pincushion, etc.) or in low wet areas. The high areas are not accessible early in the season when the danger of low snow is highest, and access is cut off as the snow melts at lower elevation late in the season. Whitebark pine occurs in the areas proposed open to OSV. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls when snowpack is thinnest.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.</p>	TEPCS species in Hell Hole area were not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area include designated botanical areas (SIA, RNA)?	No		Grass Lake RNA is within this area, but is not proposed to be designated as open to OSV use.
	Impacts from soil compaction on vegetation?	No		Designation of 12" minimum snow depth reduces the potential for soil compaction from OSV use. Staging and parking areas are not allowed on unpaved surfaces.

**South OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize impacts on other forest resources.	Would the area contain cultural, tribal, or historic sites?	Yes	Most cultural, tribal, or historic sites would be covered by sufficient snow during the majority of the year. The risk is highest during low snow levels. Minimize impacts: Include a minimum 12" snow depth in order to operate OSV in open areas, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage.	OSV use was not designated at developed recreation sites with historic facilities.
	Would the area contain mineral resources with active claims?	No		

**Table 2. §212.55(b)(2): Minimize harassment of wildlife and significant disruption of wildlife habitats**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize harassment of wildlife.	Would the area encompass California spotted owl, and/or northern goshawk PACs that experience more than occasional OSV use and don't experience summer motorized traffic?	yes	Courtship and early nesting begins in March (goshawk) and April (spotted owl). Use begins to decline steeply during these periods. Use patterns often correlate to summer use. Many of the PACs are in areas limited to OSV use due to topography or tree cover. Use during winter months is less than in summer months. Birds are more bothered when users stop than when they pass through the area.  Minimize impacts: Designate the open season for OSV use from November 1 to April 15 to reduce the overlap with nesting and courtship. Incline Creek PAC is in an area designated as open to OSV use only on odd days of the month, reducing the impact of OSVs on the PAC.	Goshawk and spotted owl PACs in the Meiss Country area were not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area encompass known bald eagle nest sites or other designated closure areas?	no		

**South OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the area contain a pacific marten den buffer that experiences more than occasional OSV use and doesn't experience summer motorized traffic?	no		
	Would the area contain SNYLF occupied habitat?	No		The occupied habitat is located in the Hell Hole area. This area is currently open to OSV use and is proposed as closed to OSV use.
	Would the area contain LCT occupied habitat?	Yes	<p>LCT in Upper Truckee. Only a very small section of the river is in an area open to OSV use. OSV use is expected with sufficient snow. Due to the vegetation cover and bank condition, OSV use patterns do not coincide with the creek and there is no indication of soil quality problems as a result of OSV use around Taylor Creek.</p> <p>Minimize Impacts: Close parcel 033-050-14 and 033-050-19 to OSV use (Upper Truckee flows through these parcels). This parcel is an inholding and is surrounded by non-FS land. Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open soil or crossing water courses outside of hardened crossings.</p>	Parcel 033-050-14 and 033-050-19 were not designated as open to OSV use

**South OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize disruption of wildlife habitats.	Would critical or suitable SNYLF habitat be located in the area?	No critical. Yes suitable	<p>Suitable habitat for SNYLF is located adjacent to water courses and wet areas. Wet saturated areas are more likely to melt out first. Use patterns generally steer clear of the wet areas when they start to melt. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls. Areas adjacent to water courses are often covered with vegetation and difficult to access with OSV. Existing use patterns have not indicated permanent changes to suitable habitat.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Harden and BMP all crossings where OSV users typically cross. Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open soil, about not riding across open vegetation, about riding on insufficient snowpack, and not crossing water courses outside of hardened crossings.</p>	Critical habitat in the Hell Hole area was not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area contain occupied or emphasis habitat for willow flycatcher?	Yes	Willow flycatcher migrate from this area during the winter. Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.	

**South OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

**Table 3. §212.55(b)(3): Minimize conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of National Forest System lands or neighboring Federal lands**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of NFS lands	Would OSV use in this area have the potential to cause conflicts with non-motorized visitors' recreation experience high value areas for backcountry or cross country skiing?	Yes	There are areas of potential conflict between motorized and non-motorized users who ski the backcountry. Minimize impacts in areas open to OSV use: Provide improved signage on where areas are open to OSV use and provide improved education on proper "share the resource" etiquette and "Tread Lightly" ethics for OSVs.	The Meiss Country area was not designated as open to OSV use. The boundaries of the area near Angora Lakes was clarified. Previously the boundary lines did not coincide with geographic features or other means that users could differentiate on the ground. Adjusting the boundaries to coincide with geographic features will reduce the potential for conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users in these areas.
	Would the area encompass areas valued for non-motorized use, including: PCT, Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, ski areas (cross-country, downhill), and/or IRAs, Backcountry MA?	Yes	Areas of Inventory Roadless Area and Backcountry Management Area are open to OSV use. Minimize impacts: no permanent roads or parking areas are proposed or existing in the IRA. No parking areas proposed in Backcountry MA.	The Meiss Country IRA was not designated as open to OSV use. Heavenly Ski Resort was not designated as open to OSV use.
Conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of neighboring Federal lands	Would the area abut a wilderness area or other closed areas managed by other agencies?	No wilderness in South Shore polygon. other closed areas managed by other agencies = Yes	Open FS abuts State Land. Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.	

**South OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the area abut an area on an adjacent forest that is closed?	yes	<p>Open areas abut closed areas on the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF. These areas are separated by obvious topographic features (the ridge around the basin).</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.</p>	
	Would the open area or trail abut a developed recreation site?	yes	<p>Sawmill pond itself is not open to OSV use, however it can serve as a staging area for OSV.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.</p>	The Sand Pit area is in an area designated as open to OSV use, however this is not considered a conflict because the Sand Pit is used for OHV access.

**Table 4. §212.55(b)(4): Minimize conflicts among different classes of motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or neighboring federal lands**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize conflicts among different classes of motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or other neighboring federal lands.	Would wheeled vehicle use over snow be allowed in this area? If so, does this affect safety and winter management of this area?	No		

**South OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would OSV use of this area conflict with plowed roads allowing vehicle use? Are road crossings allowed by OSVs?	No		

**Table 5. §212.55(b)(5): Consider compatibility of motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, and other factors.**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider compatibility of motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, and other factors.	Would the area be located adjacent to neighborhoods and communities (Urban lots – Forest Plan pg. 79)?	Yes	<p>The Golden Bear/Hartoonian Trails parcel was designated as open to OSV use because it provides a unique experience for less experienced riders and the parcel was large enough to provide a safe opportunity.</p> <p>Urban lots that were greater than 2 acres and adjacent to an area of general forest that was designated open to OSV were also designated as open to OSV use. This provides consistency on the ground since these parcels are contiguous with the adjacent general forest and lot lines are indistinguishable on the ground.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.</p>	Urban lot parcels that are not adjacent to general forest areas open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use. This clarifies an ambiguity on the previous Snowmobile Guide Map that made it seem like some urban lots were open. Small parcels that were inholdings in areas surrounded by developed areas not open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use.

**South OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the sounds and emissions from OSV use of this area be incompatible with TRPA noise threshold and state emissions standards of nearby populated areas?	No		

**Table 6. §212.55(a): General criteria for the designation of roads, trails, and areas**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Response	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to address the general criteria?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider public safety.	Would safety for motorized and/or non-motorized visitors be a concern for this area?	Yes	There are some areas designated as open to OSV use that are considered a high avalanche risk zone. Minimize Impacts: Educate users about safe use within avalanche zones. Resources available via the avalanche center.	Areas that may have been of concern for safety (such as at Diamond Peak Ski Resort, on urban lots, and in developed recreation sites) were not designated as open to OSV use. Small FS lots that are surrounded by areas not open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use.
Consider provision of recreation opportunities.	Would closure of this area eliminate a unique OSV riding experience?	Yes	Hell Hole area is a unique OSV riding experience for South analysis area, however it is not a unique riding experience within the Sierras. Minimize Impacts: Other areas within the South Shore analysis area were opened and other areas within the Lake Tahoe Basin were designated as open to OSV use.	A unique experience for beginner users was opened in the Golden Bear/Hartonian Trails area.
	Would closure of this area eliminate unique destinations for winter users?	Yes	Hell Hole is a destination for OSV-assisted backcountry skiing within the South analysis area, however it is not a unique riding experience within the Sierras.  Minimize Impacts: Other areas within the South Shore analysis area were opened and other areas within the Lake Tahoe Basin were designated as open to OSV use.	

**South OSV Area Minimization Criteria**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Response	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to address the general criteria?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider access needs.	Would closure of this area eliminate the connection to desirable OSV opportunities?	No		There is a route provided to the north of the Hell Hole area to provide connectivity to the open corridor on the Humboldt-Toiyabe.
	Would closure of OSV trails eliminate loop opportunities or disconnect open areas?	No		While the Hell Hole area is not proposed open to OSV use, there is connectivity surrounding all sides of the area.
Consider conflicts among uses of NFS lands.	Would OSV use of this area pose any known issues with valid existing land use rights?	No		
	Would OSV use pose conflicts with other uses in this area, for example permitted special uses?	No		Heavenly Ski Resort uses OSVs in their operation as a provision of the special use permit, but this area was not designated as open to OSV use.
Consider the need for maintenance and administration of the area.	Would signs and/or groomed trails need to be maintained throughout the open season?	Yes	The boundary of the closed area around Hell Hole is based on geographic features, however signs will be useful in directing users to where the open corridors around the area are located and would need to be maintained.	Any new routes approved would be under special use permit and be the responsibility of the permittee to groom
	Would the area need to be patrolled by staff or partners?	Yes	The LTBMU currently has an enforcement program for OSV use. Education of users reduces the need for enforcement. Installation of snow stakes at popular access points will help users know when enough snow has fallen to allow OSV use. Georeferenced maps also help users to know if they are in an area open to OSV use.	
Consider the availability of resources for needed area maintenance and administration.	Would partners need to participate in maintenance and/or administration of the area?	No		

**West OSV Area**

General and Specific Criteria for OSV Designated Areas (36 CFR 212.55(a) and (b))

**Table 1. §212.55(b)(1): Minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, and other forest resources**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize impacts on soil and water quality.	Would the area be located in a watershed that is of concern based on the watershed condition assessment map in the Forest Plan FEIS?	Yes	<p>Blackwood/Ward : OSV use is expected with sufficient snow. Current use patterns do not indicate an issue with soil quality as a result of OSV.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Harden and BMP all crossings where OSV users typically cross. Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open soil or crossing water courses outside of hardened crossings.</p>	
	Would the area contain Special Habitats or uncommon plant communities as defines in the LMP?	No		Fens to the west and south of Meeks Bay were not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area drain directly into a 303(d)-listed waterbody?	Yes	<p>Lake Tahoe is a 303(d) listed water body for sediment. OSV use is expected over snow pack and research suggests that OSV use does not contribute to sediment contribution. Generally OSV use does not occur over open water, which is what would contribute to sedimentation of water bodies that drain into Lake Tahoe. Because of this, OSV use is not expected to contribute to the 303d listed impairment of sedimentation in Lake Tahoe.</p> <p>Mitigation: Education of riders about riding on sufficient snowpack and not crossing water bodies that drain into Lake Tahoe.</p>	

Minimization Measures

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize impacts on vegetation.	Are TEPCS plants known to occur in this area, particularly those that are near, at, or above the surface of the snow?	Yes	Whitebark pine occurs in the areas proposed open to OSV. <i>Botrychium</i> population is in a densely wooded area which are generally precluded from OSV use. <i>Sphagnum</i> spp: The snow on West shore is deep even in low moisture years. Use patterns generally steer clear of the wet areas when they start to melt. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls when snowpack is thinnest. Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.	Peltigera populations on the west shore were not designated as open to OSV use. Areas near Desolation Wilderness with Lewisia populations were not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area include designated botanical areas (SIA, RNA)?	No		
	Impacts from soil compaction on vegetation?	No		Designation of 12" minimum snow depth reduces the potential for soil compaction from OSV use. Staging and parking areas are not allowed on unpaved surfaces.
Minimize impacts on other forest resources.	Would the area contain cultural, tribal, or historic sites?	Yes	Most cultural, tribal, or historic sites would be covered by sufficient snow during the majority of the year. The risk is highest during low snow levels. Minimize impacts: Include a minimum 12" snow depth in order to operate OSV in open areas, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage.	OSV use was not designated at the Tallac Historic Site or at developed recreation sites with historic facilities.
	Would the area contain mineral resources with active claims?	No		

**Table 2. §212.55(b)(2): Minimize harassment of wildlife and significant disruption of wildlife habitats**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize harassment of wildlife.	Would the area encompass California spotted owl, and/or northern goshawk PACs that experience more than occasional OSV use and don't experience summer motorized traffic?	yes	Courtship and early nesting begins in March (goshawk) and April (spotted owl). Use begins to decline steeply during these periods. Use patterns often correlate to summer use. Many of the PACs are in areas limited to OSV use due to topography or tree cover. Use during winter months is less than in summer months. Birds are more bothered when users stop than when they pass through the area.  Minimize impacts: Designate the open season for OSV use from November 1 to April 15 to reduce the overlap with nesting and courtship.	Although the general area between SR 89 and Fallen Leaf Lake is currently closed but is proposed to be open to OSV use, the northern portion of the Tahoe Mountain spotted owl PAC was not designated as open to OSV use in order to prevent winter impacts to this PAC. The Sierra Creek and Upper General Creek goshawk PACs were not designated as open to OSV use, the General Creek spotted owl PAC was not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area encompass known bald eagle nest sites or other designated closure areas?	No		The bald eagle nest site at Baldwin/Kiva was not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area contain a pacific marten den buffer that experiences more than occasional OSV use and doesn't experience summer motorized traffic?	No		East of Fallen Leaf Lake there is a den site. OSV use in this area occurs on the road and not on the slope, which already receives summer motorized traffic, therefore OSV use is not a large concern for this pacific marten den.
	Would the area contain SNYLF occupied habitat?	No		Occupied habitat occurs in Desolation Wilderness, which was not designated as open to OSV use.

Minimization Measures

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the area contain LCT occupied habitat?	Yes	Taylor creek is occupied with LCT. Due to the vegetation cover and bank condition, OSV use patterns do not coincide with the creek and there is no indication of soil quality problems as a result of OSV use around Taylor Creek.  Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open soil or crossing water courses outside of hardened crossings.	
Minimize disruption of wildlife habitats.	Would critical or suitable SNYLF habitat be located in the area?	No critical. Yes suitable	Suitable habitat for SNYLF is located adjacent to water courses and wet areas. Wet saturated areas are more likely to melt out first. Use patterns generally steer clear of the wet areas when they start to melt. Risk is the most during the early snowfalls. Areas adjacent to water courses are often covered with vegetation and difficult to access with OSV. Existing use patterns have not indicated permanent changes to suitable habitat.  Minimize impacts: Harden and BMP all crossings where OSV users typically cross. Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use, or the minimum depth needed to prevent resource damage. Education of riders about not riding across open soil, about not riding across open vegetation, about riding on insufficient snowpack, and not crossing water courses outside of hardened crossings.	Critical habitat occurs in and near Desolation Wilderness, which was not designated as open to OSV use.
	Would the area contain occupied or emphasis habitat for willow flycatcher?	Yes	Willow flycatcher migrate from this area during the winter. Minimize impacts: Designate minimum 12" snow depth for OSV use. Education of riders about not riding across open vegetation or riding on insufficient snowpack such that the OSV is breaking through onto vegetation.	

**Table 3. §212.55(b)(3): Minimize conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of National Forest System lands or neighboring Federal lands**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of NFS lands	Would OSV use in this area have the potential to cause conflicts with non-motorized visitors' recreation experience high value areas for backcountry or cross country skiing?	Yes	There are areas of potential conflict between motorized and non-motorized users who ski the backcountry.  Minimize impacts: Provide improved signage on where areas are open to OSV use and provide improved education on proper "share the resource" etiquette and "Tread Lightly" ethics for OSVs.	The boundaries of the areas open to OSV use near Lily Lake and Angora Lakes were clarified. Previously the boundary lines did not coincide with geographic features or other means that users could differentiate on the ground. Adjusting the boundaries to coincide with geographic features will reduce the potential for conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users in these areas.
	Would the area encompass areas valued for non-motorized use, including: PCT, Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, ski areas (cross-country, downhill), and/or IRAs, Backcountry MA?	Yes	Areas of Inventory Roadless Area and Backcountry Management Area are open to OSV use. Minimize impacts: no permanent roads or parking areas are proposed or existing in the IRA. No parking areas proposed in Backcountry MA.	There is only one area where the PCT is currently open to OSV use on the LTBMU and this area was not proposed as open to OSV use except for one designated crossing. The boundary of the area not open to OSV use follows a contour line for ease of understanding on the ground by OSV users. OSV use was not designated in ski areas or wilderness. No Wild and Scenic Rivers in the West area.
Conflicts between motor vehicle use and existing or proposed recreational uses of neighboring Federal lands	Would the area abut a wilderness area or other closed areas managed by other agencies?	Yes – Granite Chief and Desolation Wilderness  Yes – State Land (Sugar Pine State park and State land in Ward Creek)	Areas that abut wilderness are clearly defined by geographic features.  Trespass on State land is generally limited by geographic features and is not a large concern in this area  Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.	

Minimization Measures

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the area abut an area on an adjacent forest that is closed?	Yes	<p>Area south of Truckee River adjacent to Tahoe NF is open on LTBMU and closed on TNF. These areas are separated by obvious topographic features (the ridge around the basin).</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.</p>	
	Would the open area be in conflict with a developed recreation site	No		Organization camps are within areas open to OSV use. Organization camps are not open in the winter and OSV use within these areas is minimal and is not considered a conflict with the recreation site. The other developed recreation sites are not open to OSV use.

**Table 4. §212.55(b)(4): Minimize conflicts among different classes of motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or neighboring federal lands**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Minimize conflicts among different classes of motor vehicle uses of NFS lands or other neighboring federal lands.	Would wheeled vehicle use over snow be allowed in this area? If so, does this affect safety and winter management of this area?	Yes	<p>McKinney Rubicon is open to wheeled vehicle use, however wheeled vehicle use is limited after significant snow fall. When the wheeled vehicles can travel along the road, generally there is too little snow for OSV on the road.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Sign the McKinney Rubicon area (ex: <i>Notice! Wheeled vehicle use may occur on McKinney Rubicon Trail throughout the year</i>)</p>	

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would OSV use of this area conflict with plowed roads allowing vehicle use? Are road crossings allowed by OSVs?	No		Spring Creek Tract road is the only plowed road in the area open to OSV use, however no conflicts exist with current use.

**Table 5. §212.55(b)(5): Consider compatibility of motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, and other factors.**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider compatibility of motor vehicle use with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account sound, emissions, and other factors.	Would the area be located adjacent to neighborhoods and communities (Urban lots – Forest Plan pg. 79)?	Yes	<p>An area of general forest south of SR 89 between the “Y” and Fallen Leaf was designated as open to OSV use.</p> <p>Urban lots that were greater than 2 acres and adjacent to an area of general forest that was designated open to OSV were also designated as open to OSV use. This provides consistency on the ground since these parcels are contiguous with the adjacent general forest and lot lines are indistinguishable on the ground.</p> <p>Minimize impacts: Provide georeferenced maps for users to access information on where the boundaries of the areas open to OSV use in relation to their exact location. Improved map conventions will also help in understanding which areas are open to OSV use.</p>	Urban lot parcels that are not adjacent to general forest areas open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use. This clarifies an ambiguity on the previous Snowmobile Guide Map that made it seem like some urban lots were open. Small parcels that were inholdings in areas surrounded by developed areas not open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use.

Minimization Measures

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Would OSV use of the area have the potential to cause adverse impacts without mitigation?	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to minimize these impacts?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
	Would the sounds and emissions from OSV use of this area be incompatible with TRPA noise threshold and state emissions standards of nearby populated areas?	No		

**Table 6. §212.55(a): General criteria for the designation of roads, trails, and areas**

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Response	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to address the general criteria?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider public safety.	Would safety for motorized and/or non-motorized visitors be a concern for this area?	No		Areas that may have been of concern for safety (such as on urban lots, and in developed recreation sites) were not designated as open to OSV use. Small FS lots that are surrounded by areas not open to OSV use were not designated as open to OSV use.
Consider provision of recreation opportunities.	Would closure of this area eliminate a unique OSV riding experience?	No closures of unique experience		Developed recreation sites, inholding parcels, and urban lots were not designated as open to OSV use. These are not unique OSV riding experiences. The Lily Lake area is not a unique OSV experience and this was not designated as open to OSV use. The boundary between the areas open and not open to OSV near Angora was adjusted to follow a contour line to provide a clearer boundary that is understandable on the ground. This area is not a unique OSV experience. The area adjacent to Granite Chief Wilderness and the PCT that was not designated as open to OSV use is moderately popular for OSV users, however this is not a unique riding experience. There are many other places in the West Area as well as throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin where riders can ride along a ridgeline.
	Would closure of this area eliminate unique destinations for winter users?	No closures of unique destination		None of the areas that are previously open to OSV use but are not proposed to be designated as open are considered a unique winter destination.

Criteria	Potential Impact Indicator	Response	If this area is designated, what measures will be taken to manage OSV use to address the general criteria?	Comments on any actions taken that resulted in no need for mitigation or other choices made when designating areas for OSV
Consider access needs.	Would closure of this area eliminate the connection to desirable OSV opportunities?	No closures of connectivity from existing		<p>The areas not designated as open to OSV use are adjacent to other areas not open to OSV use and do not eliminate any connections.</p> <p>Multiple areas are proposed as open to OSV use that are previously closed and these areas provide improved connectivity for OSV users. The large parcel on the east side of Fallen Leaf Lake provides a continual open corridor along the lake. In addition, opening the area west of SR 89 provides improved connections between the neighborhoods in the Tahoe Mountain area to other open OSV areas.</p>
	Would closure of OSV trails eliminate loop opportunities or disconnect open areas?	No closure of trails or loops proposed		Opening the areas east of Fallen Leaf Lake and west of SR89 to OSV use provide new loop opportunities.
Consider conflicts among uses of NFS lands.	Would OSV use of this area pose any known issues with valid existing land use rights?	No		
	Would OSV use pose conflicts with other uses in this area, for example permitted special uses?	No new conflicts		
Consider the need for maintenance and administration of the area.	Would signs and/or groomed trails need to be maintained throughout the open season?	Yes	Signs marking the PCT crossing area would need to be maintained.	
	Would the area need to be patrolled by staff or partners?	Yes	Part of our enforcement. Education reduces the need for enforcement	
Consider the availability of resources for needed area maintenance and administration.	Would partners need to participate in maintenance and/or administration of the area?	No	The LTBMU currently has an enforcement program for OSV use. Education of users reduces the need for enforcement. Installation of snow stakes at popular access points will help users know when enough snow has fallen to allow OSV use. Georeferenced maps also help users to know if they are in an area open to OSV use.	

