



Oregon State Snowmobile Assn.
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September 22, 2026

Dear Ms. Waterston,

On behalf of the Oregon State Snowmobile Association (OSSA), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed bulk sampling project located in T.29 S., R.03 E., Section 13 on the High Cascades Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

OSSA is not opposed to the proposed project. Our primary concern is ensuring that project activities do not unintentionally impact groomed snowmobile routes, groomer access, or winter motorized recreation in this area.

Rogue Snowmobilers, an OSSA-affiliated club, maintains groomed snowmobile routes within the High Cascades Ranger District, including the Bybee Creek/Hamaker grooming area. Because the proposed project is located in the general vicinity of this grooming system and will involve heavy equipment, helicopter operations, and access to the project site, we respectfully request that the Forest Service consider the following as part of its review:

- Identify the Forest Service roads and routes that will be used for equipment access, staging, and project operations.
- Determine whether any project access routes, staging areas, excavation sites, or associated activities overlap or affect the Bybee Creek/Hamaker grooming area or other routes maintained by Rogue Snowmobilers.
- Determine whether any roads used by grooming equipment to access the trail system could be affected by project activities.
- Consider the timing of project activities in relation to the winter grooming season and snowmobile use.
- Avoid temporary closures or restrictions on established groomed snowmobile routes whenever possible.
- Coordinate with OSSA and Rogue Snowmobilers before project activities begin if any groomed trail, groomer access route, or winter recreation corridor may be affected.
- Ensure that any roads or trails disturbed by heavy equipment are restored to a condition that allows safe snowmobile travel and snowcat grooming following completion of the project.

Because the information provided with the scoping notice does not identify the specific roads that will be used to access the project area, OSSA would appreciate the opportunity to review an access or project map if one is available. This would allow OSSA and Rogue Snowmobilers to determine whether there is any direct

overlap with the Bybee Creek/Hamaker grooming system and identify potential concerns before work begins.

We appreciate the Forest Service considering winter motorized recreation during project planning. Early coordination with OSSA and Rogue Snowmobilers can help avoid conflicts with grooming operations and public snowmobile access while allowing the proposed work to move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Lisa Mahoney
Executive Director
Oregon State Snowmobile Association