



**File Code:** 1950-1/2720-2 (153)

**Date:** January 23, 2009

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies:

The Carson Ranger District is seeking comments on the proposed reissuance of an outfitter/guide special use permit for snowmobile tours in the Hope Valley area of eastern Alpine County, California.

The Forest Service will host two public meetings to discuss this project:

- Tuesday February 10, 2009, Turtle Rock Park Community Center at 17300 State Route 89, Markleeville, California from 6:00-8:00 PM
- Thursday February 12, 2009, CVIC Hall at 1602 Esmeralda Avenue, Minden, Nevada from 6:00-8:00 PM

#### How to Comment and Timeframe

This scoping notice is intended to provide those interested in or affected by this project with an opportunity to submit their concerns. The Forest Service welcomes your thoughts on the proposed action, including any issues to be analyzed or alternatives to be considered.

Please send in your comments by February 23, 2009 to:

Genny Wilson, District Ranger, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District, 1536 South Carson St. Carson City, NV 89701

Email comments can be sent to [comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-carson.@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-humboldt-toiyabe-carson.@fs.fed.us) using the subject line: Lake Tahoe Adventures EA.

#### Proposed Action

The purpose of this EA is to examine the environmental effects of reissuing an outfitter/guide special use permit for guided snowmobile tours in Alpine County, California. This action is needed to address growing demands for a variety of winter recreation opportunities in Alpine County, in particular snowmobiling.

The Carson Ranger District proposes to reissue an outfitter/guide snowmobile special use authorization (permit) to Tahoe Adventures, Inc. dba Lake Tahoe Adventures for guided snowmobile tours in the area of Highway 89 and Blue Lakes Road in Alpine County, California. Authorized locations for the operations base and groomed trails remain the same. The proposed amount of use is 12,000 snowmobiles



per year and approximately 50 miles of groomed trails. The authorized season of use would be November through May, with annual adjustments for snow levels. Normal guided tour group size would be seven client machines plus one guide; if there are more than seven clients but less than fourteen clients, an additional guide is added to the group. Dependent on the demand, up to six groups leave from the staging area per hour, staggered to provide spacing between groups. Normal daily hours of operation would be sunrise to sunset. Tours are staged out of an area adjacent to the Hope Valley Sno-Park. Occasionally, special tours, such as ultimate and moonlit tours, are offered or contracted. These tours occasionally travel off-trail within the permit boundary area. The permit would be issued for a term of 10 years.

The project is located on National Forest System lands with a portion of the permit boundary adjacent to the Mokelumne Wilderness Area.

For further information regarding this project, including a map of the permit area, go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/projects/>, or contact Julie Rowe, Recreation Special Uses, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest at 775-352-1241.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Michael Wilde for*  
GENNY WILSON  
District Ranger

Enclosure