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Regional Forester  
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October 12, 2002

USDA Forest Service  
Attn: NFS- EMC Staff (Barbara Timberlake)  
Stop Code 1104  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1104

Greetings:

This letter is a notice of appeal on the closure of the Carter-Crescent Lake area to snowmachines as of December 1, 2002.

My son and I are avid snowmachine riders and frequently use the Carter-Crescent Lake area for recreation throughout the winter months. We have always respected the area and have enjoyed it as a place for the family to easily access. Because of the access to the lakes being steep and windy, I have seen only a few skiers climb the trail to use this area over many years. I have seen a few skiers on the back of snowmachines being transported to the top so that they could enjoy the more level terrain of the area. I have never seen a confrontation between skiers and snowmachine riders, and I believe we should all have the opportunity to use this majestic and spacious area.

I have talked with several skiers who also agree and actually prefer that the access on many mountain trails to the top be blazed by snowmachines because of the deep snow.

This area in particular is also a wonderful place for those of us who are not the extreme or more adventurous riders nor want to spend the whole day riding. Some riders, such as myself, have only a short amount of time available and can not stay the entire day. The Carter-Crescent area is easy to get to, has a steep by fairly short accent and has the rolling terrain that is excellent for beginners or those who just enjoy riding without obstacles. Areas such as Lost Lake are nice once you get to the top but that takes a considerable amount of time and is also restrictive due to snow conditions, terrain and weather at the top. It is also at times a very crowded area and will be extremely crowded due to this ruling. By restricting the Carter-Crescent area you are crowding and endangering other areas.

I am also a cross-country skier and have no problem sharing our beautiful national forest with everyone.

I would also like to point out that this ruling is not family friendly for use of the national forest. The ruling overruled staff recommendations and overwhelming public comments to keep the Carter -Crescent Lake area open to snowmachines under the new management plan for the forest. Cabin use and ice fishing opportunities will now be very restrictive which before was a wonderful benefit to using this area.

Please consider reversing or an alternative to this ruling. I can think of a few without much problem to include alternating weeks of use, widening the trail, making a separate trail for either skier or snowmachine or how about just respecting each other which has prevailed in the past.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas L. Osborne', written in a cursive style.

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