

California National Forests

The California national forests contain:

- 2,421 miles of groomed winter trails
 - 2,258 miles of groomed trails open to snowmobiles
 - 163 miles of groomed trails closed to snowmobiles
- See Table A.

The California national forests contain:

- 14,716,955 acres of land
 - 9,546,748 acres of land open to snowmobiles
 - 2,133,659 acres of non-wilderness land closed to snowmobiles
 - 2,897,548 acres of designated wilderness land, also closed to snowmobiles
- See Table C.

The NVUM surveys for the California forests show there are an estimated:

- 1,367,060 cross-country ski and snowshoe visits annually
 - 325,451 snowmobile visits annually
- See Table B.

These numbers show that on national forest land in California, there are 14 times more miles of groomed motorized trails than non-motorized even though the NVUM participation figures show that statewide there are four times more skier and snowshoer visits than snowmobile visits. This disparity results in a density of 8,387 skier and snowshoer visits per non-motorized mile compared to 144 snowmobile visits per motorized mile, a ratio of 58 to one.

Only two of Tahoe National Forest's 244 groomed miles are designated non-motorized despite 125,000 annual skier and snowshoer visits in that forest versus 11,000 annual snowmobile

visits. This results in a ratio of 1,394 users per groomed non-motorized mile to one user per groomed motorized mile.

Shasta-Trinity National Forest's ratios are equally disparate. That forest shows 99,000 annual skier visits and 6,600 annual snowmobile visits, yet only 18 miles of 278 groomed miles of trails are non-motorized. This results in a density of 5,500 skier visits per non-motorized mile versus 25 snowmobile visits per motorized mile.

In Inyo National Forest, where there are 817,000 annual skier visits and 114,000 annual snowmobile visits, and where cross-country skiing is identified as one of the top primary activities of users, only 12 miles of 142 groomed miles of trails are non-motorized.

Users in Klamath National Forest also identified cross-country skiing as one of the top primary activities, and in that forest the 40,000 skier visits far outnumber the 8,400 snowmobile visits, yet only 12 miles of the 144 groomed miles of trails are non-motorized.

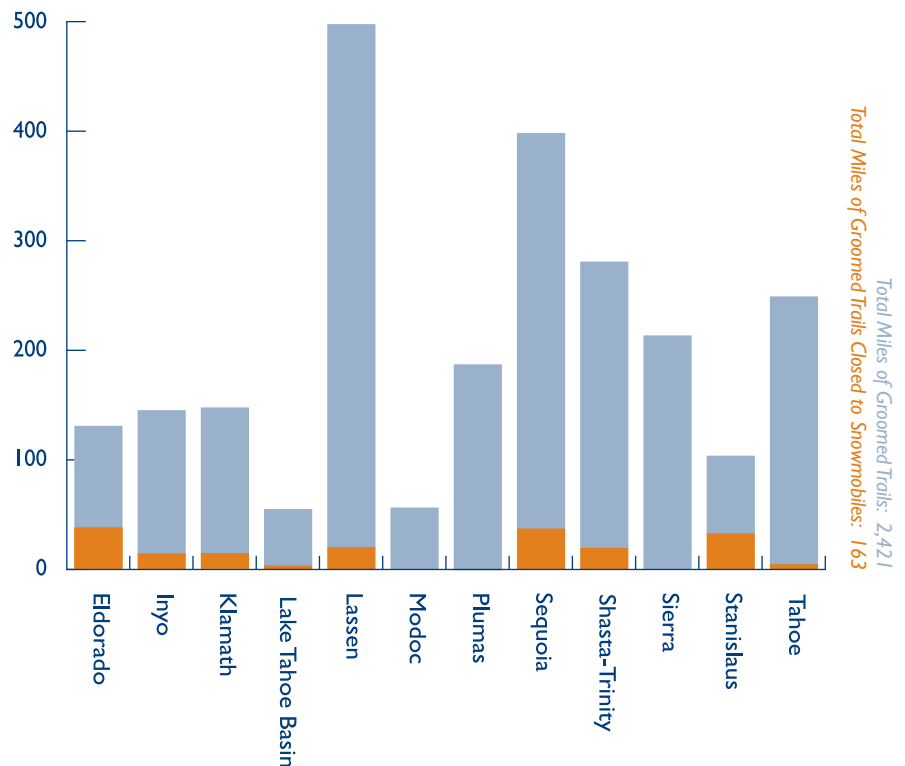
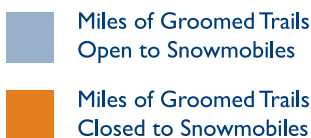
Not a single one of Sierra National Forest's 209 miles of groomed trails is designated non-motorized, despite six times more annual skier and snowshoer visits – 75,000 – than annual snowmobile visits – 12,000.

Lake Tahoe Basin has only one mile of non-motorized trail out of 51 total groomed miles despite 10,000 more annual skier visits than snowmobile visits.

Not one of Plumas National Forest's 183 miles of groomed trails is non-motorized despite 9,000 annual skier visits on the forest.

Table A: Total Miles of Groomed Winter Trails on National Forest Land Open and Closed to Snowmobiles

See Appendix 3, pg. 38, for comparison of snowmobiles vs. skiers/snowshoers per mile of motorized and non-motorized trails.



In Tahoe National Forest, where skiers and snowshoers outnumber snowmobilers 11 to one, only one in ten acres is designated non-motorized.

The NVUM survey data is consistent with statewide surveys, where it has been found that cross-country skiers outnumber snowmobilers almost two to one without any accounting for the additional numbers of snowshoers and backcountry skiers.⁸²

Statewide, despite the fact that non-motorized winter users outnumber snowmobilers four to one, only about one third of the total forest acres are designated non-motorized, more than half of which are in wilderness.

Table B: National Forest Annual Visits per Activity

Source: U.S. Government, National Visitor Use Monitoring data

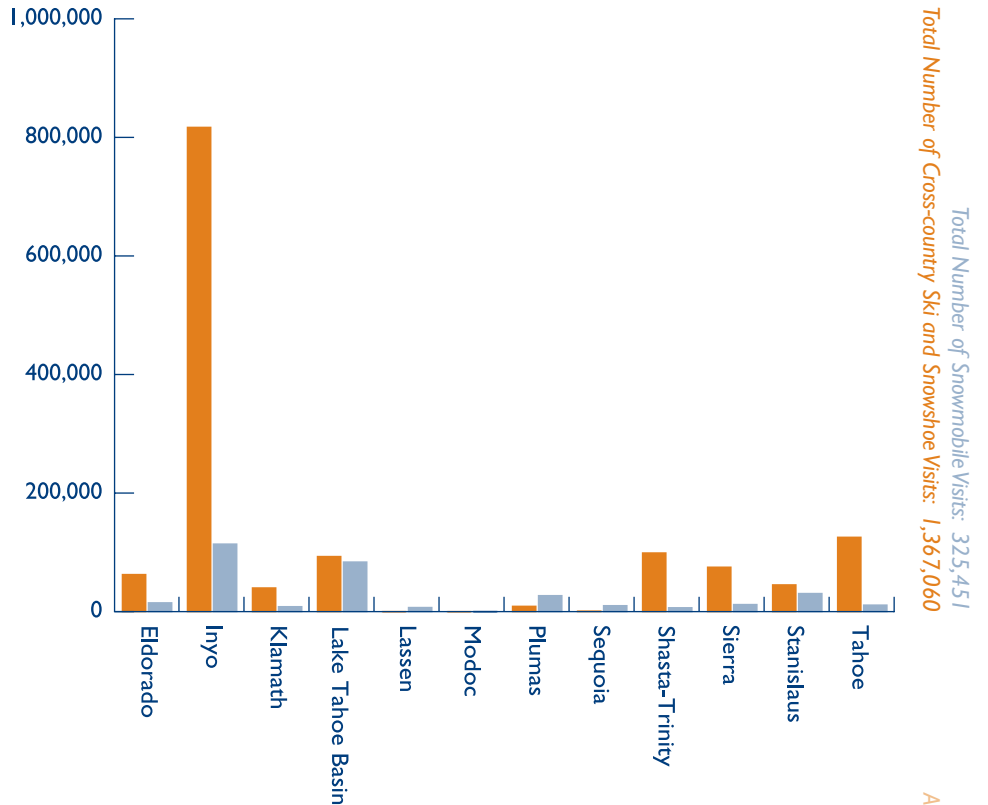


Table C: National Forest Acres Open and Closed to Snowmobiles

