

**Community Focus Statement B:** Reduce the impacts associated with seasonal visitors and tourist activities.

**Action Statement B.2:** Investigate opportunities to establish designated sledding areas with parking to avoid visitors establishing undesignated sledding and parking areas.

**B2**

**Benchmark:** Areas sanctioned for snow recreation with available parking and amenities with a long-term maintenance plan.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** variable, depending on projects proposed



*SNO-PARKS in Placer County provide a safe, low-cost program for the entire family to enjoy the county's great winter wonderland. Photo source: SNO-PARKS*

During the winter months, the Hilltop communities provide easy access to residents and visitors from the surrounding region to drive to the area for a day of sledding. Sledding is a popular activity in mountain areas, both with locals and visitors. However, without proper precautionary measures, it can cause damage to the environment, be dangerous to people, and cause significant safety issues in the area. Oftentimes, visitors create quasi-sledding areas, resulting in vehicles illegally parking in turnout areas or

along the side of the road where adequate space is not available. These quasi-sledding areas are often on private property or in natural areas, causing damage to habitat. Because of the absence of amenities, significant amounts of trash and debris are left behind. To reduce or eliminate sledding in dangerous or damaging locations and the aftermath of sledding activities, designated areas for sledding activities with amenities such as parking, restrooms, and trash receptacles are essential.

An important factor in the establishment of designated sledding areas is working in collaborative diverse partnerships. Local residents can identify appropriate areas where sledding would be suitable, as well as areas which are often used but not ideal for the activities. Presenting identified areas to the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, along with possible funding mechanisms, can facilitate the establishment of suitable locations for safe and fun sledding activities and the provision of suitable amenities such as parking and restrooms. As in many parts of California, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks, the US Forest Service, the California Department of Transportation, and the California Highway Patrol can also be directly involved in coordinating and administering a winter recreation program that can provide safe recreation, as well as funding, through the administration of permits to the designated recreation areas. Many states have a similar program to help support the efforts of local and federal land agencies to offer the public high-quality and environmentally sound snow recreational opportunities. Such funding can then go toward the maintenance of facilities and parking lots, and toward wages for employees to staff the site. Through this collaborative effort,

winter recreation opportunities such as snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and general snow play are accommodated at SNO-PARK sites.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Community Recreation Committee to serve as action leader	Champion Rim of the World Recreation and Park District	Month 1	Corporate sponsorship guidance <a href="http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-Funding/Corporate-Sponsorship-and-Naming-Policies.aspx">http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-Funding/Corporate-Sponsorship-and-Naming-Policies.aspx</a>
2. Identify areas often used for sledding and areas suitable for sledding and other snow activities.	Committee with support from the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District	Months 1 – 3	
3. Draft a winter recreation plan to establish, maintain, and provide designated sledding areas.	Committee with support of the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District	Months 3 – 12	Federal grant funding resources <a href="http://reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/">http://reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/</a>
4. Coordinate with local parks jurisdictions to provide safe recreation areas through administration of permits to designated areas and close off areas not identified for sledding.	Committee	Months 3 – 12	Placer County, Winter Recreation in Northern California <a href="http://www.visitplacer.com/northern-california-ski-resorts.aspx">http://www.visitplacer.com/northern-california-ski-resorts.aspx</a>
5. Seek businesses and organizations to donate or sponsor the cost of amenities such as restrooms and water fountains.	Committee, with support from local business community	Months 9 – 12	California State Parks OHV, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation SNO-PARKS <a href="http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1233">http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1233</a>
6. Apply for grant funding to go toward amenities operations and maintenance.	Committee with support from Rim of the World Recreation and Park District and local businesses	Months 9 – 12	
7. Install amenities and access improvements.	Committee, Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, with support from local business	Years 1 – 5	
8. Partner with local youth and volunteer groups to help with maintenance.	Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, with support from local business	Years 1 – 5	Tahoe Donner, Snowplay <a href="http://www.tahoedonner.com/snowplay/">http://www.tahoedonner.com/snowplay/</a>