

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Lee Livingston, Chairman
Dossie Overfield, Vice Chairman
Joseph E. Tilden, Commissioner
Lloyd Thiel, Commissioner
Scott Mangold, Commissioner



Park County, Wyoming
Organized 1911

Original Park County Courthouse
Cody, Wyoming
Completed 1912

November 12, 2021

Mark Foster, Environmental Coordinator
Shoshone NF Travel Management Planning Project
Shoshone National Forest
808 Meadow Lane Avenue
Cody, WY 82414

Dear Mark Foster:

The Park County Commissioners would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Travel Management Planning Project's 2021 Environmental Assessment. The Shoshone Travel Management Planning Project process began in 2015 with initial scoping. A follow-up scoping process was then completed in 2017. Between 2017 and 2021 nothing was done publicly on the Travel Management Plan. Now, after four years, the process has begun again using virtual meetings because of COVID-19. The Park County Commissioners who attended the virtual meetings found it very difficult to understand and when the alternatives were presented, they were also difficult to hear and comprehend.

The Park County Commissioners feel the plan is very important to Park County as we depend on tourism and the money it generates for the county as well as the access to the forest that members of our community love and cherish. The Park County Commissioners are requesting the Shoshone Travel Management Planning Project be **suspended** until in-person public hearings can be put into place for public comments and questions, so the public can better understand the Shoshone Travel Management Plan and ask meaningful questions.

OHV Use

- Alternative #1- No action – Park County Commissioners prefer Alternative #1. There is an increase demand of OHV use in the Shoshone National Forest. Each year Park County depends more on tourism dollars than we have in the past. It is vitally important that there are no road closures and the Shoshone National Forest remains accessible to the general public for motorized use. In Alternative #2, #3 and #4 there are road closures proposed and it is very important to Park County that we do not lose wheeled access to the national forest. Under Alternative #1 there is no opportunity for loop roads and trails to be created. However, under the Forest Service plan of 2015 additional loop roads and trails were proposed. We would ask the forest to address those on a case by case basis. The Shoshone Forest has the ability to close the roads on a case by case basis. We ask you to minimize the use of seasonal restrictions except in the case of wildlife mitigation.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Lee Livingston, Chairman
Dossie Overfield, Vice Chairman
Joseph E. Tilden, Commissioner
Lloyd Thiel, Commissioner
Scott Mangold, Commissioner



Park County, Wyoming
Organized 1911

Original Park County Courthouse
Cody, Wyoming
Completed 1912

Over-snow Motorized Use

- Alternative #1- No action- The Park County Commissioners will recommend Alternative #1. In the event the Shoshone National Forest is to implement an Alternative other than #1, the Park County Commissioners support the Cody Country Snowmobile Association on Alternative #4 and support their comments which were presented in their letter to Shoshone National Forest Travel Management Plan, dated November 5, 2021.

Regardless of what Alternative is decided upon, we strongly recommend and would support the development of private/public partnerships to help maintain access to our forest. With only 17% of SNF open for motorized use, if more roads are closed, that creates a more restrictive area where more people are operating in a smaller area resulting in greater resource damage that we would like to avoid at all costs.

Again, the Park County Commissioners would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Travel Management Planning Project's 2021 Environmental Assessment. We hope you will keep the Shoshone National Forest in its current state to continue to meet the needs of the present and future generations of individuals, families, and tourists that live and vacation in Park County.

Respectfully,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PARK COUNTY, WYOMING

Lee Livingston, Chairman

Dossie Overfield, Vice Chairman

Joseph E. Tilden, Commissioner

Lloyd Thiel, Commissioner

Scott Mangold, Commissioner