

November 11, 2021

Mark Foster, Environmental Coordinator
Shoshone National Forest
808 Meadow Lane Avenue
Cody, WY 82414

RE: Shoshone National Forest Travel Plan, Wind River District

Dear Mr. Foster,

Please accept this letter as my support for the Forest Service's Travel Planning Alternate 4 "preferred plan" for the Shoshone National Forest, Wind River District. While Alternative 4 leaves most people wanting something more or something less, I believe it is a fair compromise that both protects Forest resources and wildlife while at the same time ensuring a limited "travel" use that is thoughtful, sustainable, regulated and equitable.

Not to get too far into the "weeds", however, I have more than a passing familiarity with Forest Service related planning and subsequent impacts on the community of Dubois. At the request of all six city/towns in Fremont County and the County Commission, I researched and authored Fremont County's 1985 Comments to the Forest Management Plan. I participated in the 1986 Dubois Strategic Plan (partially funded by the Shoshone National Forest). I'm familiar with the 2004 and 2011 Wyoming Rural Development Community Assessment and Followup for the community of Dubois. And, I researched and authored the Dubois' biomass usage report and recommendation. I also hike, backpack, hunt, fish, photograph, travel the various National Forest roads and motor trails, and cut my firewood in the Wind River District around Dubois. This is my home.

1. In my view, the Preferred Alternative reflects the inclusion of the conflicting and competing public comments. Both recent and over the many years. There has been ample opportunity for input. It is easy to see and review the Plan on line. Forest Service personnel have been available to explain and answer questions regarding the Plan. There has been extensive local news coverage (detailed and accurate). And the various interest groups demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the Plan as witnessed by their various public comments.
2. Based on my local knowledge, experience and concerns, the Preferred Alternative fairly protects Forest resources and wildlife habitat. Regarding habitat, Wyoming Game and Fish and the Shoshone National Forest have a proven track record of protecting wildlife through seasonal closures and other administrative measures.
3. Based on my actual and intimate knowledge of these areas, the Preferred Alternative is both sustainable, relatively low impact and equitable.
 1. Sustainable: by becoming eligible for Wyoming State Trails Program funding, a growing long term financial resource is available for motor trail construction and maintenance. Witness the trail maintenance work performed this last year on MT12, and the various barricades and signage put in place to mitigate usage.
 2. The proposal's use (mostly) of existing administrative roads and travel routes reduces overall impacts.
 3. And, the proposal brings some equity back into access for places like The Landing on Warm Springs Creek (a place known and used by locals for generations) which has become land locked and the private playground for at least one ATV rental service and a subdivision.
4. WR03 "Windy Mountain" and WR7/WR13 "Warm Springs Canyon" reflect necessary and reasonable continuing use. This is not new use for these areas. Rather it is much Preferred planned and regulated use.

Thank you for the work done by the Shoshone National Forest on this Travel Plan and for accepting my public comments.

Very truly yours,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.