

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone](#)
Subject: Shoshone National Forest Proposed Action Comments
Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2016 8:30:18 PM

July 26, 2016

Shoshone National Forest

Attn: Rob Robertson
333 East Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

RE: Shoshone National Forest Travel Management – Proposed Action comments

Dear Rob:

I grew up on the West side of the state and the Shoshone Forest has always been one of my very favorite places to visit in the summer, but especially during the winter. There is nothing more beautiful than a fresh dusting of snow on the mighty Pinnacles.

With that being said, I would like to express my opinion about the proposed action for this forest. I completely agree with WSSA's proposal.

I have traveled the Sublette Pass trail on snowmobile many times with my father and would like to see it included as an ungroomed snowmobile trail. I also think the Ghost Creek trail, as an ungroomed snowmobile trail, would provide many resources and services during the winter months for snow enthusiasts.

I would like to see the snowmobile trail from the Tie Hack Parking lot to the Brooks Lake Parking area be added onto the proposed action map. I also think the High Lakes Wilderness Study Area should remain open for snowmobilers to access. With the deep snow depths in the area, it is a great location for motorized winter use with very little risk of resource damage.

I agree with WSSA that there should be a formal snowmobile closure to the already designated cross-country ski trails, especially since snowmobilers have not used this area for many years. This is a great example of how snow users of different aspects can recreate in the same general area, without interfering with each other's access.

However, I do not think there should be any additional closures to snowmobiles and other OSVs in this forest. Maintaining the access already granted to snowmobiles and OSVs is of utmost importance to me.

I also agree with WSSA that full-sized motor vehicles should be prohibited from using snowmobile trails, except where special permits are already in place to do so. I fear that the increased weight of tracked vehicles and UTVs would help to deteriorate the snow pack on snowmobile trails.

As for OSV motorized use periods, I agree with WSSA. The beginning dates of December 1 for lower and November 15 for upper zones sounds great. I currently live in Laramie and there are prescribed OSV dates in place for the Snowy Range/Medicine Bow National Forest. These dates work very well for both motorized and non-motorized users. The end date for OSV use in the Snowy Range is May 31st. This date allows for me to take my young children out snowmobiling when the temperatures are warmer and much more enjoyable for them. The May 31st end date also allows us to have much longer riding days. With the sun setting later in the day, we can stay out and enjoy the riding even longer.

Thank you for taking the time to consider of my thoughts about the Shoshone National Forest Proposed Action. It is my hope that winter motorized enthusiasts, like myself, can continue to responsibly recreate in the Shoshone National Forest like we have done previously.

Sincerely,

Sunny Madden

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