

From: [Patrick Cole](#)
To: [FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone](#)
Subject: Phelps Mountain / Francs Peak
Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 6:55:16 AM

Please accept these writings as written comment to the travel management plan. I am an avid mtn. biker, back country skier, climber and skier. Your proposal to close public access to the established roads mountain of Wyoming is concerning. I grew up in Wyoming, have used these roads all of my adult life. It seems the Forest Service has made a priority of closing or denying the public access to the back country In particular the Phelps Mountain . I know these areas have been accessed since regularly since the 60s. I say this because my dad's journal and maps document many trips into Franc and the surrounding areas. I first accessed this area in 1984. The road's end has since been moved back. Now the Forest Service has propose closing the road all together. This troubles me. Why would the Forest Service do this? Is it due to grizzly activity? My dad never encountered grizzlies while hiking/skiing/climbing in the Park County. Since that time the grizzly numbers have increased to the point that you can not go to the mountains (or with in 10 miles of Cody) and not see grizzlies, scat or bear sign. The bears have recovered.

My dad was the first to do a winter accent of Francs Peak, I have hiked Francs Peak many times. The road up Phelps Mtn is the preferred access point. The road is normally not accessable until late May - Early June. I am not sure what the Forest Service gains by closing this road. The public has used this area with very little issues, wildlife has flourished in the last 20 years. It is my opinion that the Forest Service should leave this road open so that the public can enjoy this area as they have for many years. Put your efforts toward forest fires and let this access to the mountains remain as it is.