

Clarks Fork, Greybull, and Wapiti Ranger District
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To Susan Stresser, and directed to: Shoshone Forest Travel Plan,

I am writing to submit my proposal suggesting a change in the Shoshone National Forest Winter Use Travel Plan.

This is regarding the well maintained designated snow mobile trail which is in a high use area between Pilot Creek (parking for snowmobile use) and the Beartooth Hwy/Chief Joseph Hwy junction (parking for snowmobile use). This area is in the North Zone, Side One.

I propose that this area be restricted to “use” on the trail, exclusively. The area surrounding the trail is designated “Open” in the present plan – my proposal is to remove that “Open” area.

This location is in a tight natural corridor involving the Clarks Fork River where abundant winter wildlife reside. The logging from 4 years ago on this designated “Open” snowmobile area **changed** the impact of the winter recreational use by creating a more open space free-for-all adding accelerated stressful impact to wildlife during the winter season.

In this narrow corridor:

- There is Hwy 212 with high-use winter truck/vehicle traffic (snow mobile hauling).
- This small part of Hwy 212 is also frequently used by snow mobiles (I know that is not legal but it happens).
- Because of the logging, there is easy access to the unmaintained county road by snowmobile and
- easy access to the power line running through the area.

All of which in addition to the newly logged area create many clear lanes for snowmobile use. This makes this slim space like a five lane Hwy on many high-use winter days.

Restricting the snowmobiles to one lane, the designated groomed/maintained snow machine trail- will **help** relieve some of the stress in this winter habitat.

With the availability to actually haul a snowmobile on Hwy 212 to either Pilot or the Beartooth Hwy parking destinations- snow mobile enthusiasts will not be challenged in their choices to use the popular high country areas on either side of this corridor.

Thank you, Jenny Reeves Johnson

