

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone](#); [Alexander, Joseph G -FS](#); [Stresser, Susan R -FS](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Shoshone National Forest Travel Management – Proposed Action Comments  
**Date:** Sunday, July 24, 2016 9:28:08 PM

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7/24/2016

Dear Shoshone National Forest Travel Management Team,

First of all I would like to thank you for allowing the public to comment on the Shoshone National Forest Travel Management Plan.

I was born in Cody and have lived in the area all of my life and enjoy all that the Shoshone Forest has to offer. I also realize that the Shoshone Forest is mainly a “horseman’s forest”. However, I am extremely concerned about groups like Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Sierra Club, and Wild Earth Guardians who have most likely not even been to the Shoshone Forest. Their only concern is to shut down all motorized use on any forest or any public lands for that matter. I believe that “Public Lands” means that all people of the public should be able to use the public lands, not just those who are non-motorized. After all if I recall, only about 22% of the Shoshone Forest is even available for motorized activity. I also realize that the use of our “Public Lands” needs to be done responsibly.

I am excited that the Shoshone Forest planning staff is looking at making some looped trails for the ORV community. I believe that this will help to eliminate some of the congestion on some of the trails in the forest. I am also excited that there is the possibility of short trails for some of the dispersed camping on the Shoshone. I do not believe that these thoughts are taken lightly by your staff.

Being a snowmobiler I would also like to thank you for considering the new trail proposed by the Cody Country Snowmobile Association from Hwy 212 by the gravel pit down towards Painter Estates. When the snow permits this will be a great addition for the community who recreates on the Shoshone Forest and have homes in the Crandall area. My family has a cabin in this area and we are excited for this opportunity. When there is adequate snowfall on this trail it will provide important access to services and increase user safety.

I also support keeping the High Lakes Wilderness Study Area open to continued snowmobiling access. This remote deep snow area has been used by snowmobilers for many decades. There are no resource impacts related to winter use and it should remain open to winter motorized recreation use. I support the Shoshone Forest for not wanting to impose snow depths for winter travel management. I am concerned though about the proposed dates

that Shoshone Forest Staff have come up with. It is unrealistic that if Mother Nature blesses us with a great snow year that the snowmobiling season should end April 30. After all there are campgrounds, and access to some of the lakes in the Beartooth mountains that aren't even open until the middle of July. And if Mother Nature is not that kind to the snowmobiling community (which is the case from time to time) then snowmobilers aren't wanting to continue snowmobiling any way due to the damage that they may cause to their snowmobiles. This is not a cheap sport but we enjoy it none the less.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Shoshone National Forest Travel management plan. I am looking forward to continue to be a good steward of the public lands that are managed by the Shoshone National Forest Staff.

Sincerely,

Brenda Miller

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Brenda Miller.

Snowmobiler and concerned Citizen