

**From:** [George Wuerthner](#)  
**To:** [FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone](#)  
**Subject:** Shoshone Forest travel comments  
**Date:** Sunday, June 26, 2016 9:40:05 AM

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Dear Shoshone NF:

I am a long time visitor to the Shoshone NF. Indeed, just a week ago I was hiking/camping along the Clark Fork of the Yellowstone, Dead Indian Creek, and on the Beartooth Plateau area of the forest. I have explored the forest from South Pass to the Montana border. I am writing to encourage the forest to limit motorized travel, recognizing that the Shoshone's greatest value is its roadless wildlands.

Increasing the miles of motorized loops is contrary to the values that the Shoshone NF should be emphasizing. Especially given its position as part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the most intact wildlands in the lower 48 states. Enhancing that wildlands value ought to be the emphasis of all management.

Specifically increasing motorized access to the Wiggins Fork roadless area should be avoided. The Wiggins Fork is one of the more important portals into the Washaski Wilderness and critical big game winter range. The proposed Bachelor Creek loop adjacent to the Fitzpatrick Wilderness and also in a roadless area is problematic as well.

The Forest should make sure that it has adequate funding for enforcement, signage, and restoration of motorized impacts. There are already way too many illegal routes that need closure. Creating new paths will only increase illegal use. Many studies have demonstrated that ORV users tend to ignore restrictions. The FS has to be realistic and recognize that any new routes will merely increase the mileage of illegal routes, and all the attendant problems for wildlife, soil erosion, disturbance to other recreational users.

Best:

George Wuerthner

