

Wapiti Ranger District

Kelly Graham

MAY 26 2016

May 24, 2016

Shoshone National Forest
Greybull Ranger District
203A Yellowstone Ave.
Cody, WY 82414

RE: Travel Management Plan - Summer Motorized Proposals
Gwinn Fork NZ-12

Dear Forest Service Personnel:

As a taxpayer, grazing allotment permittee, concerned citizen, and nature-lover, I am strongly opposed to the Gwinn Fork proposal referenced above.

Building more roads in this area would have a severe negative impact on the numerous wildlife that inhabit the area. I have witnessed deer, elk, moose, black bears, grizzly bears, wolves, and numerous small animal and birds living in this area over the last thirty years that I have spent riding horseback through the Dick Creek area. This is some of the best elk habitat in the Wood River drainage that is not private property. More motorized trails/roads mean more people and more problems/conflicts with wildlife. Another factor is the loss of grazing for wildlife and livestock. Any place there is a road, there is no grass. Also, more roads will lead to more off-road driving, more reckless driving (speeding), and more garbage - all of which are bad for wildlife and livestock.

One of my biggest concerns about this proposal is the amount of money this proposal will require. It is my understanding that the Forest Service is chronically short on funds. It would require many millions of dollars to build any kind of a road/trail in this rough terrain. This is extremely steep, rocky, rugged terrain that would require extensive use of large equipment to build any trail suitable for any type of motorized vehicle. This is the reason that this area has historically only been accessed by foot or horseback. Any surface disturbance in this area is going to lead to increased soil erosion, run-off problems, and further spread of noxious weeds. The maintenance costs for this new trail will be an ongoing burden to the Forest Service budget. Approximately 15-20 years ago, the Forest Service spent a significant amount of money closing and removing roads from the forest, including Gwinn Fork. It is hard for me to understand why you would now want to add new motorized trails.

Another area of expense will be the new fencing required. There will have to be a new fence built between Dick Creek and Timber Creek. At the present time (without a motorized trail), the cattle stay within their respective allotments, but if a motorized trail is put in place a new fence will have to be built. This will also be expensive to build and maintain.

This proposal for a new motorized trail in the Gwinn Fork area is a bad idea and should not receive further consideration. It is a losing situation for wildlife, hunting, livestock grazing, and the land itself and provides no benefit.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelly Graham".

Kelly Graham