

Kristie Salzmann
Shoshone National Forest

RE: Shoshone National Forest Road Management Plan—submitted comment

Dear Ms. Salzmann,

I am submitting these comments to the Shoshone National Forest pursuant to the Road Management Plan. The sentiment of some of my comments may be general, however, I draw specific attention to Limestone Mountain Road, Road 326, and Freak Mountain Road, or road 352. These roads are vital to supporting a variety of recreation activities in the area, and I request that the Forest Service continue to classify both of these roads as Level 2 within the Road Management Plan, and that the Forest Service commit resources to upgrading the current condition of these roads.

[REDACTED] I am an active outdoors person. I frequently avail myself of the opportunities to fish, climb, bike, hike, and otherwise enjoy the wonderful resources at our disposal. I view these resources in three distinct categories: 1) Those close to town and/or readily accessible; 2) Those that are deep in the wilderness and require significant effort and time to access; and, 3) Those that are in between in that they entail effort and time, but are readily accessible via a drive on dirt road coupled with a relatively short hike. Obviously, accessibility is really more of a continuum. An attractive quality of the third category noted above is that while dirt roads may make the resources available, the resources continue to retain a relatively untrammelled character. In essence, people can have the best of both worlds, resources that are accessible and retain a wilderness character.

Forest Service roads are a critical tool for supporting accessibility to the latter two types of resources. They are also critical to the varied use and enjoyment of the resources. The lack of maintained Forest Service roads would create significant barriers to the use and enjoyment of our collective resources and lead to the diminished enjoyment of recreational opportunities. Effective management and support of a robust road system will serve to enhance the Forest Service's charge to support and advance multiple use of the Shoshone National Forest.

The Young Mountain and little Popo Agie canyon area is an extremely valuable resource that supports hunting, spectacular fishing in unique pools formed by huge cabin-sized limestone boulders, hiking, and unparalleled rock climbing. Road 326 (To the overlook of Wolf Point) and Road 352 are essential to providing reasonable access to these areas. Without the roads (and appropriate maintenance thereof), recreational opportunities will be diminished and the area will become underutilized. A key point is that sustaining access to these recreational opportunities also spreads recreation out over the regional Forest Service lands meaning less impact on other available resources.

I believe that Road 326 (To the overlook of Wolf Point) and Road 352 are currently classified as Level 2. Both roads are in need of maintenance to meet/maintain this classification. Given that these roads are so critical to access unique recreational opportunities, I urge the Forest Service to retain the Level 2 classification and to improve the quality of these roads pursuant to the Road Management Plan.

Regards,

Scott Robertson
[REDACTED]