

**From:** [Forrest McCarthy](#)  
**To:** [FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone](#)  
**Subject:** Shoshone Travel Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 21, 2016 2:07:06 PM

---

Dear Rob Robertson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the winter travel plan. Of particular interest to me is winter travel and recreation on the sections of Togwotee and Beartooth passes managed by Shoshone National Forest.

Currently, the purpose and need statement completely ignores the need to provide some close-access areas that are closed to motorized use to protect the human-powered experience, particularly in the areas immediately south of Brooks Mountain and Pinnacle Butte. Human-powered backcountry winter use has a long history in this area and is a growing user group.

I support the winter motorized use season dates – these dates help minimize impacts to wildlife, eliminate conflict between motorized and non-motorized recreation on the Beartooth Plateau and the High Lakes Wilderness Study Area, and aligns with management on neighboring forests.

I support closing the areas around the Deception Creek and Pinnacles cross-country ski trails on Togwotee Pass to motorized use.

A minimum snowdepth requirement for motorized use makes little sense unless the restriction threshold is set very deep, like over 2-5 feet, depending on snow hardness. Located on the eastern side of the Wind River and Absaroka-Beartooth mountain ranges, the winter snowpack on the Shoshone National Forest is primarily continental. Because of this generally shallow and low-density snowpacks widespread resource damage from oversnow vehicles is a serious problem on Shoshone National Forest and must be addressed in the travel plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Forrest McCarthy](#)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]