

From: [Tom Zimmer](#)
To: [FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone](#)
Subject: Shoshone Winter Travel Comment
Date: Thursday, June 23, 2016 4:03:41 PM

Attention Rob Robertson,

Thank you for taking comments on the new winter travel management plan. My comments are based on my extensive use of backcountry travel specifically in and around Togwotee Pass. [REDACTED]. While Togwotee Pass is a 90 minute drive from Lander, it is the best area for winter backcountry travel for skiers. My time in the backcountry in the winter is split between being on skis and my snowmobile. For 4 years I was a snowmobile guide in Utah and Colorado and love the use of my sled but also love my time on my skis. When I am on my skis I am more tolerant of snowmobiles than other skiers perhaps since I ride myself, but still, when I am skiing I am looking for a quieter experience and want the solitude of the backcountry. Having toured all around Togowotee Pass on my sled I am familiar with the extensive amount of space available for snowmobiles. I was at a comment meeting in Lander this winter when over 50 snowmobilers showed up and took over the meeting. Consequently all the skiers including myself didn't speak up in that hostile environment. As a snowmobiler for over 15 years and an owner of 4 sleds I was embarrassed by the atmosphere they were creating. To spare you from reading a novel, here is what I want to say in a nut shell: I hope the Forest Service can separate some space for skiers so that they can experience the solitude of the mountains. There is ample space and trails available for snowmobiles and designating a few areas for skiers is not preventing the sledders from enjoying the outdoors. There is no other motor sport that can essentially go wherever they want, other than water sports, and designating a few trails for skiers isn't changing their experience. I know they are concerned that this move is the tip of the iceberg and that the forest will eventually close the whole forest to them, which I know is not your intent. Anyway, please allow for some areas to be designated for non-motorized travel to provide solitude for skiers and snowshoers and winter wildlife. In addition, I agree with these comments below. Thank you for your time.

Tom

- 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 aligns with management on neighboring forests.

- Support closing the areas around the Deception Creek and Pinnacles cross-country ski trails on Togwotee Pass.
- Oppose designating the Sublette Pass trail as a winter motorized route. This trail has traditionally been used by, and managed for, skiers.
- Ask that the Shoshone include a minimum snow depth restriction of 18 inches to ensure that over-snow vehicle use is only occurring when there's enough snow to protect the underlying vegetation