

July 17, 2016

Rob Robertson
Washakie District SNF

Mr. Robertson:

I would like to comment on the proposed change WR-26.

I am very familiar with Forest Road 501 and the need to mitigate its use. I operated the camp in Bear Basin for nearly 20 years from 1980 to around 2000. I have seen the road degraded more every year by the use of increased numbers of 4 wheelers in place of saddle horses and pickup trucks.

Historically, truck operators would make the trip into the Basin and stay for awhile because the trip by truck was so painful and difficult. Four wheeler operators go up and down the road, often several times in one day. They also have a tendency to take different routes in and out each time to avoid standing water, thereby degrading riparian areas by widening the road more each year.

The best option for saving the road would be to close it all together to motorized vehicle use. That was tried years ago when I operated the camp. It was politically unpopular and that closure was rescinded two weeks later.

A more realistic option would be a wet season closure to be determined on a year to year basis or from winter thaw to say, June 15th . That, in itself, should go a long way to healing those riparian areas so badly damaged.

I strongly recommend a seasonal closure to all vehicle traffic from the Double Diamond cow camp to Bear Basin.

I will be interested in hearing your final decision on the use of the road.



Francis G. Fox



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JUL 25 2016

WASHAKIE RD