

Sarah W. Zuccarelli
310 Maple Ridge Road
Center Sandwich, NH 03227
603-284-6921

Rob Robertson
Washakie District Office
333 East Main Street
Lander, WY 82520

Re: WR-26

July 17, 2016

To Mr. Robertson and to all others who may be concerned;

I am writing to you because I have had 13 consecutive years (2003-2016) of experience as a guest with Bear Basin Adventures in the month of July. I am familiar with the road and the conditions that are stated by the US Forest Service in the Proposed Action WR-26. It has been my observation that the ATV and 4 wheeler users are solely recreational. "Party in the Woods" people.

Bear Basin Adventures, however, is a business built on being able to offer a real "wilderness experience" in the summer months and a wilderness hunting experience in the fall. To limit the access to the Bear Basin Base Camp in the Bear Creek area would put an unacceptable burden on the Bear Basin Adventures business and therefore the livelihood of Heath and Sarah Woltman. The spillover of this limiting for Bear Basin Adventures would impact the motels, restaurants, taxi services and shops in Dubois, all of whom share the benefits of the activity generated by Bear Basin Adventures guests.

The use of roads and trails by 4 wheelers and ATVs causes considerable surface damage to fragile, soft, unpaved roads whether they are in Wyoming or New Hampshire.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] As a result of the degradation of trails in the WMNF by ATVs, mountain bikes and 4 wheelers we limited access at CSVW to foot travel. In winter our trails were open to x-c ski and snowshoes.

The stated purpose of WR-26 is to reduce impact on riparian and wetland areas. You suggest "lighter vehicles". There is a causal effect of the number of vehicles and the number of trips that would put the stated purpose in jeopardy.

Your soft forest roads in Wyoming have the same issues that our soft forest roads have in New Hampshire. Spring means MUD season. There are years of very serious MUD seasons and roads are CLOSED for a time. That's it...NOTHING travels on the road. You walk if you must travel over a CLOSED DUE TO MUD road. Period; until the ban is lifted.

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It is my suggestion and thought that you consider a Seasonal Closure for the area stated in WR-26. It would address the riparian and wetland impact very easily. It would not limit access by truck after the Seasonal Closure was lifted.

In my opinion, it would best serve the US Forest Service in the Shoshone National Forest to make the Proposed Change WR-26 as a Seasonal Closure only.

I am looking forward to returning to Bear Basin Creek as a guest with Bear Basin Adventures and Heath and Sarah Woltman in July of 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sarah W. Zuccarelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" being more prominent and the last name "Zuccarelli" following in a similar style. The signature is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Sarah W. Zuccarelli

cc: Bear Basin Adventures, Heath and Sarah Woltman