

From: [Bert Miller](#)
To: [FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone](#)
Subject: Shoshone National Forest Travel Management – Proposed Action comments
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2016 10:43:29 PM

Shoshone Travel Management Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Action for the Shoshone National Forest Travel Management.

I would like to comment in regards to The High Lakes Wilderness Study Area in the Beartooth mountain range. It is a very special place to snowmobile, this deep snow area has been used by snowmobilers for many decades. There are no resource impacts related to winter use in this deep snow recreation area and it should remain open to winter motorized recreation use. The snowmobile trail system in the Beartooth mountain range connects with the trail system in the Cooke City Montana area. Both of these snowmobile areas always rank in the top 5 best areas to snowmobile in the United States.

The University of Wyoming did a study on the economic impact snowmobiling has on the economy in Wyoming. At the time of the study, the impact was over \$175 million dollars was spent on snowmobiling in the State of Wyoming. An interesting part of the study showed that 49% of this money was from tourism. With the Beartooth trail system on the Shoshone Forest being one of the top 5 areas to snowmobile that means a great deal of these dollars are spent in our community.

I also feel that the Shoshone National Forest staff's proposed ending date for the snowmobile season of April 30th is unrealistic especially in years with great snow. If the Shoshone National Forest has to have an ending date for the snowmobile season I would propose that be moved out to at least June 1st, with the Shoshone National Forest management's ability to adjust the end of the season when the snow fall allows. I do support the Shoshone National Forest staff for not wanting to manage the winter use by snow depths. This would be very difficult for the staff, the depth of the snow in the lower elevations can be extremely different than the snow depths in the higher elevations. In these times when budgets are tight, the ability to have staff out of the office and on the ground to enforce snow depths does not make any sense. Working with cooperative partners like organized associations...

I am very excited about the new proposed trail from the Painter Store traveling up to trail A (NZ-4w). This will be a great trail for the Crandall area community and has no real impact on wildlife because a large part of the trail is on the old county gravel pit road. This will also help with the congestion at the parking area of HWY 212. When the snow fall allows this trail can be well marked to help make it one of the safest trails connecting the Crandall community to the Beartooth trail system.

Thanks,

Bert Miller



Avid Snowmobiler