

**From:** [Richard Roach](#)  
**To:** [Troxel, Olga -FS](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Phelps Mountain Road  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2016 5:23:07 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Richard Roach <[absarokabicycle@tctwest.net](mailto:absarokabicycle@tctwest.net)>  
**Subject:** Phelps Mountain Road  
**Date:** July 25, 2016 at 5:22:18 PM MDT  
**To:** [travel\\_management\\_comments@fs.fed.us](mailto:travel_management_comments@fs.fed.us)

Good afternoon ,

First let me say thanks for the good work you do all year long. Please accept these writings as written comment to the travel management plan. In particular the Phelps Mountain

Road. Please know that many people use this access road to access Francs Peak for many reasons and at many times of the year. Starting with back Country skiing in Early May through Mid July in some years. This is one of my favorite outings each year. This seasonal closing will add one days walk to an already very exposed hike. This extra day would turn a traditional two day approach, summit and return into three day plus trip. Thus prohibiting the trip to many who enjoy only a two day weekend. Many folks use this road for day outings Particularly older folks and children who don't hike yet or are no longer able to hike. This road gives them access to a spectacular alpine area that otherwise would not be accessible to the young and old in the spring of the year. I understand that the Phelps Mountain Road may be seasonally closed. This road has been in use for many many years. This road is sustainable and needs very little maintenance. So history tells us this long used road is subject to little or no resource damage. Other than the first pitch where it washes a bit in the spring (off forest service lands) We all have helped to do the needed repairs. The Grizzly Bear is a recovered species. The Grizzly Bear recovered with this road open. There is no need to close any more areas at anytime of the year for this reason. I do understand that Francs Peak is a moth site and used heavily by grizzly bears. All the more reason to keep it it open to the public throughout the year. Watching grizzlies in there habitat doing what they do is what visiting the forest is all about. Please quit gnawing away at the publics privileges. Year after year roads are shortened. Then they end up barred all together. (Or seasonally closed prohibiting seasonal activity's) The public knows all to well the dangers of recreating in the forest. The public knows that the bears are there. I know of no other safer place to observe grizzly bears in there habitat. The wide open ridges make observing the bears safely, from long distances. The hunters need that road year round as well.

I may be the Only Licensed Professional Outfitter using this road in June.( Absaroka Bikefitters and Back Country Guides) This road gives access to our guides and guests only in June. This seasonal closure would go against my permit and shut down completely one of my most popular hikes to Gold Reef Tunnel and

Francs Peak.

I respectfully ask that you do NOT close the Phelps Mountain Road Seasonally.

The snow pack should dictate the use of that road spring and fall.

I respectfully ask that if you do succeed in closing the Phelps Mountain Road seasonally, that you respect my Permit and allow special motorized access to the the traditional parking area at the end of the Phelps Mountain Road. Licensed Professional Outfitters depend on access to deliver a quality back country experience to there clients.

I respectfully ask that as an Outfitter, if I am included in the seasonal closure that I am granted an equal or greater amount of days later in the year during the seasonal open period to conduct my outfitting activity's. It has long been my goal to provide safe distant grizzly bear viewing to my clients.

Respectfully

Richard Roach

Absaroka Bikefitters and

Back Country Guides

2201 17th Street #7

Cody Wyoming 82414

[absarokabicycle@tctwest.net](mailto:absarokabicycle@tctwest.net)

or [mountainguides@tctwest.net](mailto:mountainguides@tctwest.net)