

From: [Stacy Jones](#)
To: [FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone](#)
Subject: Shoshone Travel Management
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To The Shoshone National Forest Travel Management Planning Staff,

I have been snowmobiling since 1995 when my husband introduced me to it. We love snowmobiling and have made many friends while enjoying the great outdoors! We have also introduced some friends to the sport! I am a member of the Sweetwater Snowpokes. Our family has had a membership for approximately 12 years.

I would like to submit my comments on the proposed dates for the snowmobile season (proposal SHO-02w). I feel that there is no need for dates to start and finish our season. I have not read any reports nor been presented any documentation that snowmobilers are causing problems that would contribute to start and stop dates. Most snowmobilers are very cautious about starting too early due to the wear and tear on the machines and the trails when there isn't adequate snow. Also since our weather is so unpredictable, I fear that your set times might not coincide with mother nature and just be a waste of time. Also this is true with an ending time. Some years the snow is gone early and some years there is a lot of snow for Spring riding. Please don't try to fix what isn't broke.

I feel that by allowing over the snow vehicle use for as long as the snow is available, it also helps to distribute users over more of the forest, thus lessening potential impacts to all resources. I have been told about a current regulation in place that addresses potential resource damage. 36 CFR 261.15(h) states, "it is prohibited to operate any vehicle off Forest Development, State, or County Roads in a manner which damages or unreasonably disturbs the land, wildlife, or vegetative resources." This is the regulation the SNF could use to cite someone for causing resource damage if using a snowmobile off trail when there is inadequate snow cover. If this regulation is already in effect, there is no need for the start and stop times. The SNF already has the ability to control the actions by the OSV's. Thank you for creating the new Painter trail (proposal NZ-4w)! This will be a great addition to the current trail system. It will be a benefit to the Crandall area community as well. We feel that the historic use, low levels of potential wildlife disturbance, and no potential resource impacts all suggest that this is a good direction for the SNF to go. Some of the other benefits are less congestion at the junction parking area, less use on the lower portion of trail A, and better safety, with the new trail being marked.

There was a study done by the University of Wyoming on the economic impact that snowmobiling has on our economy in Wyoming. I was randomly chosen to participate in this study and was happy to report the funds that we as snowmobilers contribute to the Wyoming tourism dollars. This is an expensive sport and we purchase, food, gas and motels, all of which contributes to the State of Wyoming. At the time of the study snowmobiling's contribution to the state was OVER \$175 MILLION DOLLARS of income. Another interesting point is that of this \$175 million, 49% was from tourism. The Beartooth/Cooke City area is one of the highest rated destinations for snowmobiling in the US. This economic impact is very important to surrounding communities.

I want to thank you for your continued support of this sport. Thank you for taking the time to ask for our opinions and to actually take them into consideration.

Stacy Jones

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