

As a frequent user of this area, my personal comments on proposal SHO-02w.

I believe that the resource is very well protected by Federal Regulation 36 CFR 261.15(h) “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 violation they could be cited for if someone is causing resource damage by using a snowmobile off trail when there is inadequate snow cover.

If this is taken into consideration and enforced as it should be, I do not believe that we would have the problems that we are being presented with. I do not go out with intentions of damaging my high dollar machine. If there isn't enough snow, there shouldn't be machines using it. If we leave that up to a date, year to year it will affect our riding. Some years we are able to ride weeks earlier than normal. Some years we can ride into almost July with good snowfall. Dates don't make sense when you can't pinpoint the weather.

I do not believe that if there is adequate snowfall that wildlife resources are affected. If the sportsmen can't access it with a snowmobile they are going to do so on a 4wheeler, side x side, or by horseback. The animals are still going to have the pressure. I think you need to spread out the recreation use as much as possible over the year.

If we continue to regulate the areas and times of use, why do we need to add more regulations on top? There are already plenty of guidelines set; now we just need to enforce them and abide by them.

In closing I would just like to say that as an avid user of SNF, I would like to see the future generations getting to enjoy the land god create for us to enjoy. I would like to see enforcement of the rules already in place, and I would like to see growth of the management of the trails in the SNF.

Thank you for your time,

Willie Onstine

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