

Dear Rick Metzger:

July 22, 2016

I support the proposed action for Travel Management on the Shoshone National Forest and specifically for the Wind River Ranger District. I believe it is a balanced proposal compared to all the proposals that were submitted in advance of this proposed action.

I would like to add these comments to the proposed action.

In addition to the rationale for change for WR-25 and WR-29 of "Closure dates will provide protection for the native road surface during wet spring months", it will also provide seasonal secure habitat for grizzly bear and elk calving.

I still have concerns about WR-11 a motorized trail to connect a loop to Moon Lake. Not that it connects to the Moon Lake in that direction but that it can also connect in the other direction to Salt Barrels Park and further down slope to Sheep Ridge which has a winter closure until May 15th from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission lands. Most of the higher elevation portions of this proposed loop will not be passable most years until after May 15th so the possibility of accessing these seasonally closed areas on the Game and Fish Habitat Unit from the backside would be low most years, but there are always those dry, low snow years when that could occur. Although most years traveling on WR-11 to MT 14 would not occur before that date because of lingering snow banks, I bet the users would give it the old college try creating another location where native surface trails would be impacted.

So as a modification to this proposed action or part of an alternative to the proposed action, I suggest that a seasonal closure should be applied to the existing adjacent loop that consists of FSR 545, FSR 528, FSR 529, and FSR 554 from April 1 thru May 31st. This would prevent access to the segments of this proposed loop (WR-11 and MT14) until after the Whiskey Basin Wildlife Habitat Management Area opens. And much of the beginning (and lower, native surface portions) of both FSR 554 and FSR 545 could benefit from not being open to travel during this wetter time period. In addition, the Little Warm Springs, Windy Mountain, Grandy Reservoir, and Batchelor Creek areas are used by elk as calving areas and from a maintenance and sedimentation stand point those routes in this area could stand to have time to dry out before motorized use occurs, so I would propose a seasonal closure on these roads and routes that would comprise this existing and proposed loop system to be closed to wheeled motorized travel for just two months from April 1 thru May 31st.

I hope my comments help in producing an alternative that balances benefits to all users and reduces impacts to most resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Hinschberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent than the last name "Hinschberger".

Mark Hinschberger