

From: [Tim Young](#)
To: [FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone](#)
Subject: Shoshone Travel Management Plan Comment
Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2016 11:57:42 AM

To:
Forest Service
Shoshone National Forest
808 Meadowlane Ave.
Cody, WY 82414
Sent via email: travel_management_comments@fs.fed.us

Subject: Shoshone Travel Management Plan Scoping Comment

Dear Supervisor Alexander,

Please accept the following comment on the May 2016 Shoshone Travel Management Plan (TMP) scoping document submitted by Wyoming Pathways.

Wyoming Pathways is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to people-powered activities, including bicycling, walking, cross country skiing, and fat biking. We represent forest users around the state of Wyoming and communities adjacent to the Shoshone in Lander, Dubois, Cody, and Jackson.

It is our understanding that currently the TMP will only address **Motorized** routes, and that **nonmotorized** routes will not be studied or analyzed, with the exception of those limited situations where a conversion of a nonmotorized trail to motorized is proposed, and the consideration of restricting snowmobiles from the cross country ski trails in the Togwotee Pass area.

However, there has been, and continues to be, confusion about this subject of nonmotorized trail planning, and Wyoming Pathways requests that the issue be explained in the next step of the draft EIS development. The TMP FAQ's does not include any information on this subject.

We note that the new Shoshone Forest Plan states in the Record of Decision that mountain bike trails would be considered "in the TMP effort." In spite of that, shortly after the ROD was signed, the Shoshone Forest declared that motorized trail planning was such a large and important job, that nonmotorized trails would not be considered in the TMP but would instead be addressed in a separate "mountain bike strategy", a fuzzy term that has so far been difficult to understand and participate in.

Then the Shoshone NF contradicted its stated TMP Motorized focus, and at the TMP public meeting in Thermopolis on March 18, 2016 the forest showed proposed Mountain Bike Strategy maps for the Lander and Dubois area. This motorized meeting was the first time anyone had seen the nonmotorized maps, and there was no notice to the mountain bike community that the subject was on the motorized meeting agenda, or that the maps even existed.

This shows extremely poor public process, creates confusion in the public, is resulting in a failure to meet Forest Plan promises made to the mountain bike users and other nonmotorized

trail users, and is limiting the information available to help the forest make the best decisions for the Shoshone NF.

In the next step of the TMP process, the forest needs to better describe what the scope is regarding nonmotorized trails. Separately, if indeed these are separate plans, the Shoshone needs to do a much better job with engaging users in the planning and management of the nonmotorized trails on the forest.

Regarding the one nonmotorized issue mentioned in the TMP scoping, Wyoming Pathways does concur with the need and benefit of analyzing a motorized closure of an area around the groomed cross-country ski areas west of Dubois near Togwotee Pass, listed in the TMP scoping as Falls/Deception and Pinnacles x-c ski trail. That is very appropriate to provide a quiet nonmotorized zone for the groomed trails. There is also a need to study including fat bike trails and use as part of the nonmotorized trail areas. Sadly, the page 4 scoping document fails to state how many miles of cross-country trails exist today, and the page 8 proposed action simply lists 1,354 acres to be restricted. That's just another example of the poor job being done for the nonmotorized users. In the next TMP step, more information needs to be provided.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me with any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,
Tim Young

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Tim Young
Executive Director
Wyoming Pathways



www.wyopath.org

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