

From: Bert Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 07, 2017 8:30 PM
To: FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone
Subject: Comment letter for Shoshone Forest Travel Management

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management Planning Staff,

Planning Staff

I would like to thank you for allowing public comment on the Forest Travel Management process.

I have personally been involved in the High Lakes Beartooth mountain range and the Shoshone Forest personnel for close to 20 years. I have also been riding snowmobiles in this area for a good 30 years so I feel that I am well versed in the process and the snowmobile riding areas.

I would like to address the proposed dates in the "High Elevation" zones of which you are recommending November 15th to May 15th. I truly feel that management dates are NOT needed in this area. If you look back over the past two decades the Shoshone Forest personnel along with partnerships with the Cody County Snowmobile Association and Wyoming State Trails shows that the cooperative partnerships have truly worked with the management of this riding area. This is truly a compliment to cooperative partnerships showing great stewardship for our lands. I also feel that there are solid laws that the Shoshone Forest has at their disposal to assist with the management of the High Lakes/Beartooth area.

If the Shoshone Forest feels that dates are needed they need to be flexible. Dates should have a range from November 1st to June 15th with the flexibility for extension of the snowmobile season using current SnoTel Data. Last year and this year are good examples. Folks started snowmobiling the first part of November and last year snowmobiled well after June 1st.

I would also like to comment on the proposed action for the addition for the new ungroomed but marked Ghost Creek Trail (NZ-4w) from the Painter store to travel up to trail A on HWY 212. This trail will be a great addition to the Crandall community and will allow for growth of our sport in the Crandall area. Thank you for moving this proposal forward.

I would like to close my comments with reminding all of us that we have a fantastic opportunity to advance our snowmobile riding areas on the Beartooth mountain range. Two great states, Wyoming and Montana, both share over 100 miles of groomed and marked riding areas. Trail A connects from our side of the mountain. This is truly a fantastic thing to have two states that connect and is also a great economic benefit to our communities that support us.

Sincerely,

Bert Miller

Cody Snowmobiler & Advocate for Multiple Use on Public Lands

