

From: Charles R.Neal [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 2:26 PM
To: FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone
Subject: Shoshone NF travel management

This letter will concern travel management primarily in the Sweetwater Valley and Elk Fork riparian areas. Based on my interpretation of your road maps (Nov.2017) on the internet, it seems that there has been no change in the road management of these riparian valleys since the last FS proposal.

The Shoshone NF determination to maintain and actually build (at the cost of hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars) mechanized vehicle roads in these primarily deciduous riparian habitat types is not only ecologically and fiscally indefensible but is ILLEGAL.

These ecological abominations violate EO orders 11988 and 11990 as well as Sec. 404 of the Clean Water Act. As if ignoring these federal laws is not bad enough, the roads also violate USFS Planning Rules that state that special protection must be given the recognizable area dominated by riparian vegetation. The Rules further states no increase in deposition of sediments which adversely affect water quality or fish habitat shall be permitted (think the constant road work and mechanized stream crossings in these two riparian valleys).

Deciduous riparian valleys are the single most ecologically important habitat type on the Shoshone NF. They are EXPONENTIALLY more important to wildlife of all kinds if they are roadless. Roads of any kind (seasonal or permanent) fragment wildlife habitat, facilitate poaching and serve as invasive corridors for alien noxious weeds which degrade ecosystem integrity.

Since both of these ecologically damaging and fiscally unsustainable roads are "Roads to Nowhere", I strongly urge the Shoshone NF to finally do the right thing and close these "roads" permanently at the Wapiti and Elk Fork campgrounds.

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