

From: JD Ellis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 3:02 PM
To: FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone
Subject: Shoshone Forest Snowmobiling

To whom it may concern:

I was recently made aware that some new limitations of the Shoshone National Forest being considered for snowmobile access. I'd just like to say I am against the proposed winter closures. If the concerns are animal disturbance, sure there is a little animal interaction when snowmobiling, but from my experience it is very minimal. The animals are probably moving when hearing motorized vehicles, but it is very hard to surprise them and therefore they become acclimated to the noise slowly. This is supported every time a snowmobiler sees any wildlife while riding. I see plenty just standing and watching me go by.

Another reason I appose the closure is the lack of impact on the land created by an over-the-snow vehicle. Unlike dirt toys that leave a scar, or at least a track, everywhere they travel, a snowmobile has virtually none. Trails for dirt toys need to be thought out for erosion, built and then maintained; snow travel is not limited to a trail and once the snow melts, there is no trace as to where anyone has accessed terrain which is inaccessible any other way but over the snow.

The members of the snowmobiling community are part of the public too. Please keep access to public lands open to ALL public.

Thank you for your time
JD Ellis