

From: Kevin Broderick [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 09, 2017 10:06 PM
To: FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone
Subject: Comments on Shoshone NF proposed travel action

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the curtailed over-snow travel season imposed by the seasonal-use dates in the proposed action, especially in the Beartooth Pass region. The combination of high elevation and ease of access is unique in the forest, and thus provides a unique opportunity for late-season over-snow travel that is not present elsewhere in the forest (or in many places at all). I understand that recreational users of many types now use that area in numbers far greater than they used to, but the presence of the paved road (and thus traffic noise) limits the impact of motorized over-snow travel given there is already traffic noise present. The area has traditionally been open to, and accessed by, motorized over-snow users well beyond the May 15 date in the proposed action. Given that there can be feet of snow roadside even in mid-June, it would be far more appropriate to use a much later date if one must be set, and to tie over-snow travel to actual snow conditions to allow for fluctuations year-to-year in a changing climate.

Non-motorized users who object to motorized noise have hundreds of thousands of acres of Wilderness available nearby in the Shoshone and Custer-Gallatin National Forests, much of which is at similar elevation and similar in terrain character and thus would provide similar similar recreation opportunities for non-motorized access.

As a skier who has only recently dabbled into the motorized over-snow travel realm, I believe that allowing over-snow motorized access as long as snow depths would support it is a reasonable choice in this area, particularly given the aforementioned Wilderness acreage nearby.

Regarding other aspects of the proposed action, I do support the creation of more motorized loops where feasible, as loop trails provide a much better experience than out-and-back trails, all else being equal.

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