

From: Pete Leibee [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2017 11:26 PM
To: FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone
Subject: Shoshone (OSV) comments

Dear Shoshone National Forrest (acting supervisor)

I am writing you to offer my comments on the (OSV) proposal. I am an avid Snowmobiler and winter recreational enthusiast.

I am opposed to any hi/low elevation restriction due to the necessity to access the higher elevation through a trail system from a lower elevation and the fact that I don't feel that it would be feasible to have such a restriction. Where exactly would such a parting line be possible?

I am a strong proponent for allowing tracked ATV's and UTV's to utilize winter trail systems.

-with lower snowfalls in previous years (aside from last year) it has become nearly impossible to ride sleds on certain trails but a tracked vehicle could still function fine and it allows more opportunities for people to be able to enjoy the great outdoors.

-UTV sales have surpassed snowmobile sales in most markets and allowing them access will help

stimulate the economy and provide people with more options. The infrastructure is already in place, we just need to maintain it. If our weather cycles change and we get back into a wetter cycle then these machines will probably not be able to go places that they can now, but, with technology perhaps they will. Regardless, let's embrace the present and realize that more of these types of machines are being sold and we need to accommodate them -I feel that a 75-80" width restriction would probably work fine, but, I question the width issue due to the maintenance Snowcats being so much wider-would the width restriction not pertain to them?

I can see the need for an established season for over-the-snow travel but I question the reasoning. In my mind a Nov 1 start date to a Jun 30 end date makes sense. Based on my 30+ years of riding I can think of only one time when we ever started riding prior to the 1st of November. I say that, but, I have been up on the mountain as early as mid September and encountered major snowfalls where chained up vehicles were stuck all over the place. I think this stipulation would require an exception based on abnormal weather changes. Plus, if tracked ATV's and UTV's are allowed then such a restriction might

hamstring the operation of such.

-I think an established season might be more justified for wildlife management or hunting opportunity.

-open the "season" on a certain date and allow tracked vehicles to use "only" established roads prior to

that open date, based on snow accumulation, if need be!

-based on design it is detrimental to operate modern snowmobiles in unfavorable snow condition so I

think these minor restriction will not cause much turbulence through that community

Minimum snow-depth requirement is not a realistic approach. There are too many variables to be able

to enforce such a restriction. Once again snowmobilers are not going to want to damage their

equipment so the likelihood of operating these machines in bad conditions is fairly slim!

Thank you for considering my comments!

Sincerely,

Peter S. Leibee

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Sent from my iPhone