

December 6, 2017

Shoshone National Forest
Attn: Acting Forest Supervisor
808 Meadow Lane Avenue
Cody, WY 82414



RE: Travel Management Plan – Revised Proposed Action

Dear Acting Supervisor:

I am President of the South Dakota Snowmobile Association (SDSA). Having opportunities for early and late season snowmobiling is extremely important to those of us who live east of you. My family and numerous other SDSA members are frequent visitors to your forest, oftentimes for early season or late winter/spring riding. These comments are submitted on behalf of South Dakota snowmobilers regarding the Shoshone National Forest travel management plan's Revised Proposed Action.

We are opposed to managing snowmobile use by your proposed high and low elevation use areas. This seems to be an almost laughable idea given the amount of snowfall we typically find across your forest – if you think you have 'low' elevation snowmobiling, go to the Midwest to see how ridiculous that concept really is.

We are aware that the Wyoming State Snowmobile Association and the Wyoming Trails Program have submitted historic SNOTEL data to you for the area pertinent to this travel plan – and that data clearly shows that your proposed March 30/April 1 season-end dates are far too early since there is still a ton of snow on the ground after those dates. Adopting such early closure dates would have a tremendous negative economic impact on communities such as Dubois where we regularly stay.

It is our opinion that the snowmobile season should be allowed to start between November 1 and November 15 when there's typically enough snow to ride a snowmobile. It should then remain open until somewhere between May 15-June 1 on the south end of the forest near Dubois and Lander, with the Beartooths on the north end having plenty of snow for riding as late as June 1-June 30.

We also feel it's important that snowmobiles and other OSVs be allowed to operate on open motorized routes, outside the snowmobile season, when those designated motorized routes are snow covered and not subject to other seasonal closures. This provision is important to make sure there is always reasonable motorized access to motorized routes across the forest for shoulder season activities.

Sincerely,

Jon LaFramboise, President
South Dakota Snowmobile Association

