

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Stephanie Dolence

Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 3:26 PM

To: FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone

Subject: Shoshone National Forest winter travel plan considerations

Dear Rob Robertson,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Shoshone National Forest winter travel plan. I am particularly interested in restricting over-snow vehicle (OSV) use to designated areas in order to maintain motorized-free, pristinely peaceful areas to enjoy the backcountry without mechanized noise, fumes and the fear of a machine hitting myself or one of my grandchildren. Mixed use sets up a dangerous safety hazard; a machine will always win and can maim or kill.

I hope the Forest Service will consider how non-motorized winter recreationists use the forest and draft a plan that will minimize conflict between non-motorized uses such as skiing and motorized uses such as snowmobiling. Compared to much more area accessible to OSV users, only a couple of areas have the combination of snow, terrain, and accessibility suitable for backcountry skiers: Togwotee Pass and the Beartooth Pass. Other areas of the forest are too far for most skiers to access on foot.

I respectfully ask to keep the area around the DART groomed cross-country ski trails on Togwotee non-motorized (except as necessary for grooming or search and rescue). These cross-country ski trails provide healthy, peaceful, and safe recreation for Wyoming individuals and families. OSV use churns up groomed trails making them difficult or impossible to ski. Shoshone could partner with Togwotee Backcountry Alliance to develop educational materials.

Please safeguard the longstanding tradition of human-powered spring skiing in the Beartooths once the road opens, as well as protect the fragile tundra on the plateau from mechanized damage as the snow melts.

Concerning the Beartooths, I am concerned about the proposal to open the entire High Lakes Wilderness Study Area to over-snow vehicle use. The Forest Service is required to manage this area to maintain the wilderness character that existed when the area was designated as a WSA (in 1984). Please allow snowmobile use only in the "manner and extent" that occurred at that time. Snowmobiles are far

more powerful machines today and travel much farther, in all conditions, than they did in the 80s. In accord with the intention of the Wyoming Wilderness Act, please set boundaries where snowmobiles can go within the WSA - keeping use on or near the designated motorized trail network.

A winter travel plan provides an opportunity to proactively manage winter recreation use on forest land - balancing quality motorized recreation opportunities with safe, quality non-motorized uses like skiing, and ensuring that forest resources are protected.

Thank you,
Stephanie Dolence

Sincerely,
Stephanie Dolence

■ [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]