

From: Tory Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2017 9:55 AM
To: FS-travel-comments-rocky-mountain-shoshone; Metzger, Rick -FS; Bear Basin Adventures
Subject: SNF Wind River District proposed Travel Management Plan comments

Dear Shoshone National Forest, Wind River District - Thank you for arranging the November 28 public meeting at Dubois about the draft Travel Management Plan. I wish to submit some thoughts and concerns about the latest draft.

My general comments are that the Forest Service seems to have gone out of its way to accommodate every wish of motorized use, both summer and winter. Please keep in mind that there are other user groups and resources which deserve equal weight in Forest Service planning.

Specifically, my main concerns involve the Bachelor Creek, Salt Barrel Park, and Moon Lake area (WR-78, MT14, road 524, and WR-11).

As background and history, I have been hiking and riding horses in this area for four decades. In the past, the lower portions of the Bachelor Creek horse trails were mostly tie-hack and game trails often closed by fallen trees. The upper portions of the Bachelor Creek horse trail were used mainly for access when Don Shear had a hunting camp in the Union Peak/Moon Lake area. This Bachelor Creek horse trail was also often used by the public and other outfitters. The pre-ATV horse trail from Moon Lake to Salt Barrel Park was sometimes used by the C-M Ranch during horsepack trips to the Simpson Lake cabins. During the RARE One and RARE Two era, a cry went out from ATV national groups for ATV folks to use as many forest trails as possible in order to establish "use rights". At this time some local ATV users saw fit to use chains saws in order to "open up and clear" the Bachelor Creek, Moon Lake, and Salt Barrel Park horse trails.

At the November 29 public meeting, I learned from local folks that there remains an effort to create a new ATV loop road starting in Dubois, traversing the Lime Kiln Gulch drainage, and joining the forest at road 524. This new loop would join the proposed Moon Lake and Bachelor Creek loop in order that "people can leave right from town". The Forest Service previously rejected a similar proposal early in the Travel Management Plan process, but it seems some ATV users continue to push the idea. At the meeting it was stated that the Fremont County commissioners were being pressured to open a dormant county right of way in order to create this new loop. It would seem the Forest Service needs to have a sit down coffee talk with the ATV folks, affected private landowners, the Town of Dubois, Fremont County Commissioner, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to discuss this new Lime Kiln Gulch loop.

The new proposed Moon Lake to Bachelor Creek loop will alter the historic use and nature of this area. To mitigate the new loop impacts on historic horse use and RARE Two lands, forest road WR-14 must be decommissioned and physically closed to motorized use. Road 524 should be used for forest administration needs only and closed to other motorized use. In addition, other mitigation would be for the Forest Service to create a non-motorized horse trail starting at the Upper Warm Springs subdivision and ending at Moon Lake and/or starting at the Union Pass

Road and ending at Moon Lake. This would replace the horse use lost by the creation of the new loop. These actions would provide some balancing of uses in the area if the Moon Lake and Bachelor Creek loop is created.

I also wish to comment on the Bear Basin road, WR-26. I understand this decades old road does not meet Forest Service road standards. The proposal to close the portion of the road from the Wayne's Hole cow camp area to the Bear Basin wilderness boundary makes no sense. The proposal to keep the this road open only to some ATV use seems to be based on the belief that ATVs do not cause erosion and soil problems. However, my main concern is with the Bear Basin outfitting base camp permit and the current permittees. The base camp permit was assigned under a set of conditions including the vehicle use of the Bear Basin road. Now the rules are suddenly being changed. This is another case where a sit down coffee chat with the Forest Service and permittees would be in order. How would the proposed action affect their business?

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the management of the Shoshone National Forest. Tory Taylor, Dubois.



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