

October 3, 15

Sue Stresser, District Ranger Wapiti/Clark's Fork/Greybull Ranger Districts
Shoshone National Forest
203A Yellowstone Ave.
Cody, WY 82414

Rec'd
10/15/15

Dear Ms. Stresser,

I have a few comments regarding the Travel Mgmt. Plans. I live in the Sunlight area year round and am concerned with the increased traffic of ORV's and RV's over the last 6 years. This year the traffic has increased so much that it is almost like a street in Cody. I have a few suggestions I'd like to share that I think would help with this increasing problem.

1. RV's are camping all up and down Sunlight Road and in many places less than 200' from the river. Some 'campsites' are right beside the river. It has become common place for Cody residents to leave their camper in place at these pull-outs for weeks. To decrease this kind of activity, I encourage the Forest Service to improve the large campsite that already exists across from Jaggar Ck. by Sunlight Creek, just before the Bear Gate. That campground can house a lot of campers and ORVer's, yet the roads into and around the campground are in terrible shape. I suspect that people with campers do not want to use these campsites because of the dangerous access. The roads become muddy and waterlogged, full of ruts and potholes. **Restrooms and bear proof containers** should be provided there. That campground is large, and hidden from the road, with easy access to the river. Instead of creating a 'new' campsite across from Little Sunlight, this already existing campsite should be the '*trailhead*' for ATVs. This only makes sense since ORVer's want to travel up to Gallina Pass and Sulphur Creek, both are just past the nearby bear gate.
2. I understand the frustrations of the Backcountry Horsemen relative to Little Sunlight campground, but I am concerned about additional signage and improvement across the street (hereafter referred to as '*dirt lot*'). As it is, the dirt lot is already being used by ATV's and large RV's. I've seen semis pulling campers, and even seen zip-lines set up there on the weekend. I feel more improvements would only encourage more traffic. All this additional traffic is hard on the wildlife, and the resources. By using my suggestion #1 as well as #3 below, we could eliminate the need for yet more development in the Sunlight Area.

3. There is a very nice campground at the west end of Game & Fish property. That campground is set-up for large trailer use. A big problem with that campground is that there is only access through G&F from the G&F cabins entrance. In order to encourage that campground to be used more (many weekends it is empty when Little Sunlight dirt lot is full) the FS needs to improve the terrible road that is their access to that campground from the 7D/Sunlight Bridge. The road needs trimming from side brush, and is full of potholes. It needs grading and gravel. The G&F maintains their road well. The FS needs to complete the access. If you do this people will have a loop for their campers, as well as easier access. There are already bathrooms there. Not sure if there are bear containers but there needs to be if there are not any.

Having campers congregated in areas lessens human impact upon the valley. Every spring I am personally cleaning up dirty fire rings in undesignated campsites. As you know we have many grizzlies up here. There has been a sow with cubs every spring at Beem Gulch, another area where there are chronically messy random campsites. Encouraging use that is more spread out, and making new campgrounds when the Forest Service isn't maintaining what is already there is a poor plan. In addition, I would strongly encourage the FS to place Bear containers and proper fire rings at these maintained sites.

Sincerely,

Leslie Patten, [REDACTED]