

October 24, 2015

Richard Inberg


Joe Alexander, Forest Supervisor
Shoshone National Forest
808 Meadow Lane Ave.
Cody, WY 82414

Dear Mr. Alexander;

Following are comments and observations on the Shoshone Forest Travel Plan from the Wind River chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of America.

We are in support of your statement in the July issue of The Traveler as follows ,
" With all that being said, the Shoshone National Forest will remain a back country forest. The wild and untamed character of the Shoshone will prevail".

From all reports, I am hearing good things about existing motorized travel management in the north portion of the Shoshone. Road and trail signage is in place, roads and trails are being maintained, motorized travel rules and regulations are being enforced and very little off road illegal motorized travel.

That being said, the south portion of the forest, Washakie and Wind River, do not have the same standards for motorized travel. Roads and trails are being poorly maintained, signage and barriers for both open and closed roads are in poor shape or non-existent, illegal cross country travel is rampant with little, or no, law enforcement.

In the Travel Management- Wind River District motorized proposals, I find frequent justification for a new motorized trail by using a "user created route". User created routes are illegal and should not be used as criteria for new roads or trails.

I often hear the parroted phrase from forest personnel " creating a looped motorized system will cut down on illegal off road travel". I fail to see how increasing access to more non-motorized lands will diminish violations.

As a solution to the current motorized travel mess in the Washakie and Wind River districts, stop any further expansion of roads or trails until you " get a handle on the situation". Start by enforcing the current motor vehicle use map, maintaining the existing roads and trails and installing proper signage and barriers .

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the Shoshone as a wild forest.


Wind River Back Country Horsemen

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Rick Metzger- Wind River District
Steve Schacht-Washakie District ✓

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