

To the Wind River Ranger District of the Shoshone National Forest

I would like to comment on the following proposals and make a new road closure proposal

WR-13, WR-10, WR-06, WR-08, WR-03. WR11,

First of all, my name is Ron Bailey and I live in the Little Upper Warm Springs Subdivision. I see a growing number of larger and larger groups of ATV riders going through our subdivision on both public and private roads. I have been riding around this part of the Wind River Range, both on horseback and on ATVs for more than 20 years. I will comment on those proposals where I am familiar with the on-site conditions, both past and present.

WR-13

I believe this is a good proposal since a former access road to the bottom of Warm Springs Canyon already exists and mostly just needs to be cleared. I see some need for maintenance at the creek crossing. Also, this will only work if the re-routing of FSR 529 can be successfully managed.

WR-10

Good proposal as it already exists and needs minimal improvement.

WR-06

This would make a nice, albeit small loop, with minimal improvements necessary, but only 1E is not closed.

WR-08

This would make another nice small loop. It would require some trail clearing and the moving of the current road access lockable gate from its current location to the junction of this road and the road that goes to the towers. I believe that it would be a more effective block where the road to the towers crosses the little creek.

WR-03

This NOT a good idea! The wide open alpine meadows contained in the proposed route are completely indefensible. During more than 20 years of riding and hunting in this area, I have seen an ongoing and continuous abuse of this area. This has all been done illegally without any past or current legal right to be there.

ATV riders access this area from 3 different points.

- 1, Bypassing the road access lockable gate just south of FSR-554.
- 2, First accessing and then leaving FSR-524 to go up Lime Kiln Gulch either to the south of the towers or by the road the reaches the towers themselves from the east.
- 3, Using a user created road going through the timber stand north of Salt Barrels Park.

On a recent horseback tour across the aforementioned meadows accompanied by Ms. Sarah Walker, we noted no less than 9 separate sets of ATV tracks departing the road just north of the towers and coming down off the steepest part of the ridge west of the towers. This is in addition to those that were accessing the tower road as a lower point. All of this without a legal right to be there. These meadows are wide open and provide a great temptation to leave the road at any point to access high points of ground wherever they may exist. I believe if you allow access to this area by opening a road through these meadows, you will create an uncontrollable situation.

WR-11

This road which has been user created via an old logging road has portions in the middle and upper parts of it that are very susceptible to erosion and think it would be unadvisable to open.

New Road Closure Proposal

I propose that the Salt Barrels Trail aka MT-14 be closed for the following reasons.

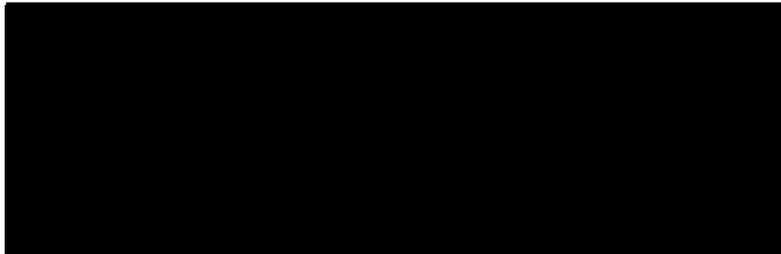
- 1, When the Fitzpatrick Wilderness was created, this road where it followed the boundary of the Fitzpatrick Wilderness and the section that continued on through the National Forest to access Moon Lake from the north was closed to protect the integrity of the Fitzpatrick Wilderness.
- 2, This road was reopened several years ago, but not as it originally existed. The section of the road that ran through the National Forest remained closed, while a new user created section that followed the boundary of the Fitzpatrick Wilderness and accesses Moon Lake from the east was opened. That section of the trail had previously been nothing but a horse trail. Since opening of the old horse trail section it has seen wet area damage and has been subject to wet area off trail abuse. I have taken photos of some of these areas and you have addressed those issues with signage and blockage, for which I thank you.

3, By closing this road you can restore the integrity of the Fitzpatrick Wilderness. Please consider closing this road that in the opinion of this writer, should never have been opened after it was originally closed.

This concludes my comments in the matter of proposals to open or close roads for ATV use in the Shoshone National Forest.

Sincerely,

Ron Bailey



Dated Oct. 27, 2015