

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Wind River

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

WR-01 and by default WR-37

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

Normally I would not support efforts to open up routes that have been effectively closed to wheeled motorized use, especially when the purpose for the closure was for wildlife habitat reasons; e.g., providing secure habitat for big game during the Spring, Summer and Fall. This proposal will reduce elk secure habitat by increasing the miles of open motorized routes per square mile of habitat. As a compromise to the motorized users groups and since this connection is targeting a connection and thus a loop route with a newly created motorized trail (FSR 622 and the portion of FSR 538 that was closed to motor vehicles when the culverts on Sheridan Creek were washed out), I would support this proposal as long as the remainder of the road system behind the Clint Creek gate that goes across the Clint Creek area under Lava Mountain to its former connection with FSR 645 remains closed by an effective means and that the proposal to close the newly created motorized trail beyond the Sheridan Creek crossing (WR-37) is not implemented. If implemented and monitoring detects repeated illegal use on the remainder of the closed road system behind the Clint Creek gate or at it junction with FSR 645 and repeated attempts to keep that portion closed to motorized use fail then I would recommend that this connection be closed to wheeled motorized use.

In addition, the FSR 538.1D (the trail at the transition from FSR 538 and FSR 622 to an effectively closed timber sale road and which had provided access to the adjacent old Lava Mountain wildcat oil and gas well drill pad) should remain a motorized trail. It is still marked on the ground as an enrolled route with State Trails, although it has been removed from their maps and the MVUM.

Mark Hinschberger