

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Clarks Fork

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-01

2. Provide comments below on the proposal:

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

NZ-01 passes through areas that we have grazing leases on with the Forest Service and borders some of our private property. An increase in road density and traffic in sections 14, 15, 10, 3 and 2 could change how the elk use the tight corridor between the mountains and our private land with residing cattle, which in turn could increase the risk of disease transfer. No one can tell how the use will displace the elk that are very common in the area. We are concerned that traffic could become heavy year round, but especially during the winter and spring due to the mild weather in the area. This is the same time the elk and cattle are concentrated here. We are also concerned about the potential vegetation damage due to the risk of invasive species from both the construction equipment and the additional vehicle traffic projected.

Currently and over the past many decades the existing roads and access during the 8 months that the big game use the low altitude Beartooth Front have co-existed to provide healthy wildlife herds as well as maintain our ranching business. The impacts of motorized access along the front at Line Creek and Little Rock have been E-W routes to access the Forest and it is working for the most part. North of our property on Bennett, Section 1 borders the Forest and yearly serves as an elk caving area which could also be affected by increased impacts of motorized travel. The Lichtendahls who own Sec 1 are also deeply concerned with this use change which could be unfavorable for wildlife along the Front. They have signed on to this comment as well.

We discourage the Forest Service from considering this additional motorized trail. And we would like to suggest that the section of route 140 that passes through section 2, section 35 and into section 34 be classified as administrative use only and be removed from the public MVUM. This portion of route 140 goes between our private properties. We utilize this for

our ranching operation and desire to continue. But we fear that it confuses the public to have it existing on their map and then they try to access it by creating illegal paths around our properties on the forest land, which destroys vegetation and can agitate livestock and wildlife.

We value our grazing privileges on the Forest and desire to maintain this access. We appreciate the opportunity to comment. Attached are a few pictures which depict the terrain and tight corridor between private land and the steep mountains.



Don Tolman



Buster Tolman



Ken Lichtendahl

Aerial shot of the Clarks Fork River and north along the Beartooth Front



Line Creek to right of picture. Taken from Sec 1



Bennett Creek taken from Sec. 1 looking southwest. Flatiron on left side of image.

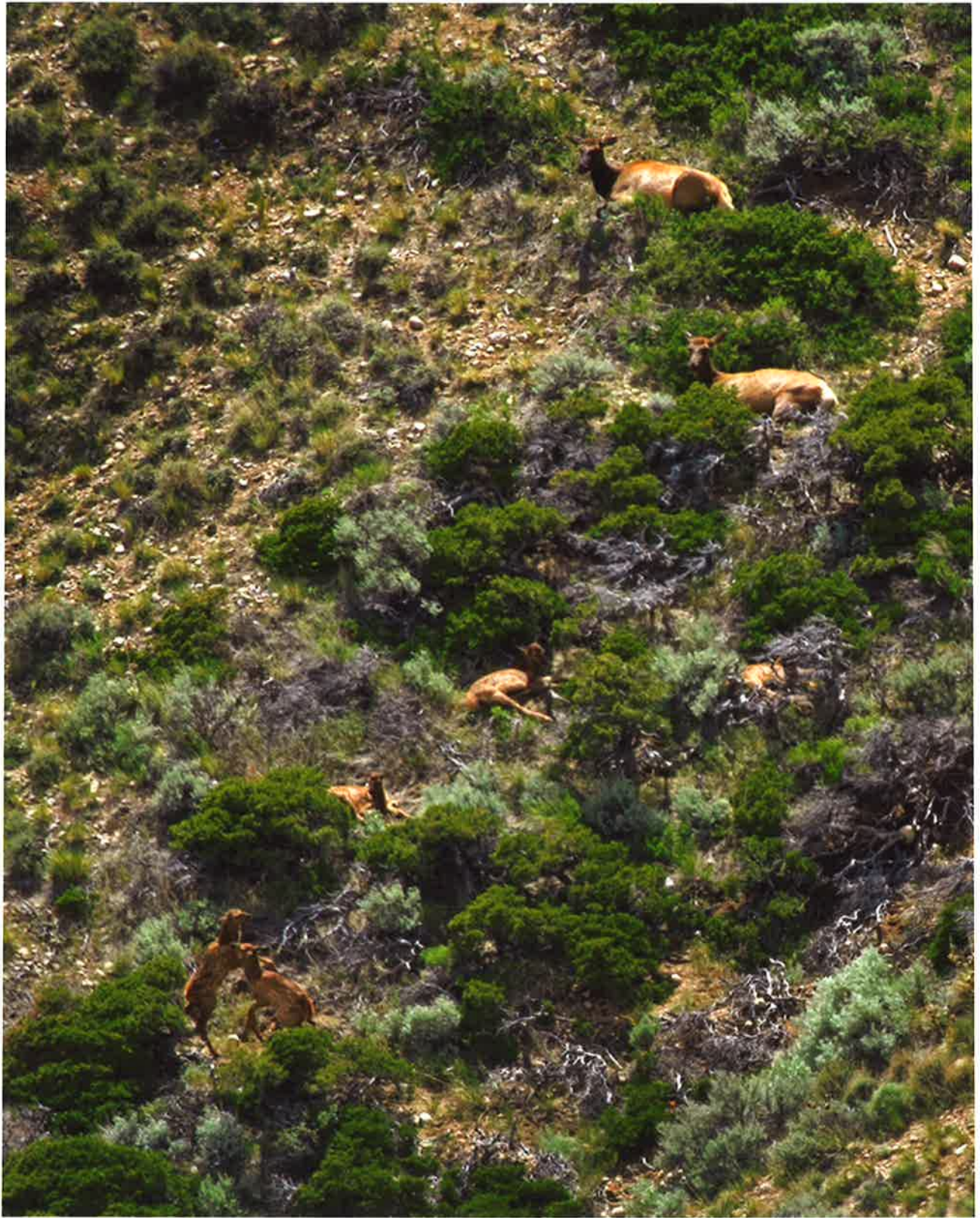


Elk on the Forest Flatiron area



Tolman Ranch and Sec 11/12 line (red) which is in line with the Forest N-S line. Clark subdivisions visible further east. Below, maternity group on Section 1, a few calves visible.





Mama Elk and calves on Section 1