

Shoshone Back Country Horsemen
P.O. Box 465
Powell, Wyoming 82435

Sue Stresser, North Zone District Ranger
Shoshone National Forest
203A Yellowstone Ave.
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Dear Ranger Stresser,

The Shoshone chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of America comments on the travel management plan proposals.

NZ-01. Line Creek. We have learned of the crucial winter habitat a portion of this traverses. We would ask for an appropriate seasonal closure.

NZ-03. Morrison Jeep Trail. No comment.

NZ-04. Little Sunlight Trailhead. SBCH sponsored this proposal. Note that we are sponsoring an additional similar proposal.

NZ-07. Sweetwater Creek. No Comment.

NZ-08 Elk Fork. No comment.

NZ-10 Carter Mtn. No Comment.

NZ-12 Gwinn Fork. This proposal creates two loops, Gwinn Fork to Dick Creek and Gwinn Fork to Timber Creek. All these areas are served by existing road system and creating these loops will negatively impact opportunity for non-motorized use. Creating these two loops will effectively bisect a non-motorized trail system that extends from the Middle Fork of the Wood River trail in the South to

the Jack Creek trail in the North (with a small exception near Timber Creek ranger station). Preservation of the continuous non-motorized trail system in the Shoshone National Forest should be considered along with game management and other issues prior to authorizing motorsports use. There are hundreds of miles of back country roads and trails available for motorsports use in the Basin and Bighorn Mountains. We would like to see this portion of the Shoshone National Forest preserved as is.

NZ-13 Aspen Trail. We strongly object to this proposal. Aspen trail along with Trail Creek are currently on our co-operators maintenance list along with the South Fork of the Wood river trail. In addition, many of our members frequently recreate in this area. It is a very popular area for horseback and foot hunters. The trailhead is ideal for equestrian use and has recently been extensively upgraded with new corrals at considerable effort and expense by us and others. Opening this area to motorsports would increase congestion and create conflict just as is the current situation at Little Sunlight trailhead. Aspen and Brown Creeks offer sanctuary to elk and moose from adjacent areas that are available for motor sports and contain crucial winter habitat. There are significant bogs and steep highly erosive terrain that are ill suited to motorsport use. We are also concerned about negative impact on the cross country ski trails if winter motorsports are allowed.

NZ-K Gooseberry & Grass Creeks. A portion of this proposal would convert a section of the Wind River trail to motorized use. We would prefer it remain non-motorized as it is the only remaining foot trail in an area mostly already gone over to motorized use. Additionally, the upper end of Grass Creek is a seasonal migration corridor for elk. Unrestricted access caused by new roads would be detrimental.

Sincerely,

Bill Lyke

President

Bill Lyke 11/27/15