

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management Plan

Greybull Ranger District

Proposal #NZ 13, Map 8, Aspen Trail

This letter is in reference to the Shoshone National Forest Travel Management Planning process specifically concerning summer motorized use.

I am opposed to Proposal #NZ 13, Map 8, Aspen Trail, Greybull Ranger District.

As an active grazing permittee on the Shoshone National Forest, I would respectfully ask Forest Service to oppose public proposals to create loop trails connecting Forest Road 201.1A with Forest Road 217 specifically referencing proposal #NZ 13, Map 8, Aspen Trail, Greybull Ranger District.

There are three livestock grazing permits within the Wood River/Gooseberry Creek Drainage and all three lie within this proposed loop. Two of these permits are currently active and the third permit could be utilized by the existing permittees if they so choose. This "loop" transects two permits anecdotally "running right up the middle of both."

Creating a loop trail that would support motorized summer travel would result in increased time, expense, and management for the grazing permittee. Currently, natural boundaries are used to keep livestock "drift" to a minimum but creation of a maintained motorized trail would require extensive fencing by three permittees and would result in the installation of either gates or cattle guards. As well, vandalism is a very real concern. Seems if there is a "structure" of any type (water tank, brace post, salt lick, exclosure, road closed sign, water bar, cabin) people must drive directly to it or around it resulting in illegal roads and increased maintenance of the "structure." Further, people tend not to stay on the trail as Forest Service rules allow for a buffer along trails which results in a parking lot (non dormant grass dies as a result of being driven on). In simplest terms, the grazing permittee buys the grass on the permit. All of these things combined result in increased time and expense for the livestock grazing permittee.

Please take into consideration that grazing has been the HISTORICAL use of this particular section of forest land. Thank you.

Rori Renner

PAR Ranch

Wapiti Ranger District

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