

From: Julia Fairbank [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 9:12 PM
To: Metzger, Rick -FS
Subject: Proposal for Shoshone National Forest Travel Management

Hi Mr Metzger,

Please find my proposal for the Shoshone NF winter travel plan below. Let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks,

Julia Fairbank
Lander, WY

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management

Request for Public Input

Ranger District: Wind River Ranger District

New Proposals

1. What is the proposal? (loop; route; closures; restrictions) , etc.)

Clearly and concisely state the Proposal. Include as much detail as possible.

I propose that the Two Ocean Mountain, on Togwotee Pass, be designated a non-motorized area. Both the north and south sides of this feature offer excellent skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing travel opportunities. This area could be designated a restricted site for 'non-motorized travel only' with appropriate signage.

2. Where is the proposal located?

Give general description of project location (example: 5 miles SW of Cody, WY) as well as UTM coordinates, Township/Range/Sec, or Lat/Long if you have that information.

UTM coordinates of the approximate peak of Two Ocean Mountain are 12T 573775 4843529. Approximate non-motorized boundaries could extend 0.4mi in all directions of the peak. A non-motorized boundary along the north side of the mountain could begin along the south edge of the groomed Continental Divide snowmobile route. The boundary on the SE portion of the mountain could be along the lower treeline (approximately along the 10,000ft contour line).

3. Why is your proposal desired or needed?

This proposal is important for a few reasons. First, Two Oceans offers excellent backcountry skiing and snowboarding opportunities that are easily accessible from the highway, which is unusual on Togwotee Pass. The terrain offers a variety of slope angles for beginner and expert snow-sliders alike. I have also witnessed avalanche education classes being conducted in the area by both outdoor education institutions and the military. Skiers/snowboarders come from both Fremont and Teton Counties, as well as out of state, to recreate in this area.

Second, this proposal is important in order to increase safety for all backcountry travelers, motorized and non-motorized, in the Two Oceans area. I have witnessed and heard second hand of several “close calls” between non-motorized and motorized travelers in the Two Oceans area. It is common for snowmobilers to highmark (unknowingly) above foot traffic in potential avalanche terrain, thus putting both parties at high risk of avalanche burial. I am not aware of any actual avalanche accidents, however I feel that it is just a matter of time because the area is becoming more popular each winter. I have also been told of near collisions between non-motorized and motorized recreators in this treed area.

Third, snowmobile tracks create dangerous ruts, especially in deep snow. These unintentional deep ruts are often a blind hazard to non-motorized travelers. I have personally sustained injuries from falling into these ruts while skiing downhill.

I think Togwotee Pass is a wonderful recreation area for both motorized and non-motorized winter travel. I also believe that the Two Ocean area should be designated a non-motorized area in order to minimize risk and conflict between users as well as offer a high quality skiing/snowboarding experience.

Thank you for considering this proposal.