

From: Eric Levy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2016 9:34 PM
To: Metzger, Rick -FS
Subject: SNF travel management proposal

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 non-motorized travel opportunities. The above area should be restricted to non-motorized travel using appropriate USFS signage at high visibility areas along the boundary. Maintenance of the signage would be accomplished easily by USFS snowmobile qualified personnel.

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.

A non-motorized boundary along the north side of the mountain could simply be 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) where snowmobile access allows easy maintenance of signage.

3. Why is your proposal desired or needed?

First, Two Ocean 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. It provides a suitable classroom for avalanche education classes presented by outdoor education institutions and the military.

Second, this proposal is important in order to increase safety for all backcountry travelers, motorized and non-motorized, 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 feel that with an increase in popularity of all winter recreation sports, it is just a matter of time before there is an incident in this area.

Third, snowmobile tracks create dangerous ruts, especially in deep snow. These unintentional deep ruts in timbered steep terrain are a blind hazard to non-motorized travelers.

The bottom line is this, I do not intend to deny snowmobile enthusiasts access to fun and challenging terrain. Rather provide near by options to the non-motorized activities and leave the rest for motorized because they can access the terrain faster and easier. This also provides a safer recreation environment for both all parties and lowers the risk of an incident.

Thank you for your time and considering this proposal.

Sincerely, Eric Levy

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