



January 14, 2016

Sue Stresser, District Ranger
Clarks Fork, Greybull and Wapiti Ranger District
Shoshone National Forest
203A Yellowstone Avenue
Cody, WY 82414

Dear Sue:

The Cody Country Snowmobile Association (CCSA) proposes a new snowmobile trail for consideration during the Shoshone National Forest Winter Motorized Travel Management planning process. This new trail route would run from existing snowmobile Trail 'A' along Highway 212 in the Beartooths, southward from the gravel pit area on the south side of the highway, to the Painter Outpost located along WY Highway 296. This snowmobile trail would follow Forest Service Roads (FSR) 181 and 181E as well as an old wagon road and two-tracks on national forest lands or easements until reaching private property in the Painter Outpost area where the new owners are open to establishing this new snowmobile access. Whether this trail is groomed or ungroomed would be determined by adequate snow cover for grooming, as well as the availability of additional grooming funds for this area from the Wyoming State Trails Program.

It is important to point out that this snowmobile trail route was previously approved by the Forest Service back in the 2000-2002 time period (Brent Larsen was District Ranger), at which time substantial deadfall clearing work was completed by Wyoming State Trails Program staff and CCSA volunteers before the project was stopped due to lynx management questions. At that time, the entire route was driveable with a Polaris Ranger used by state employees and volunteers – so the route is certainly pre-existing and something that is viable on the ground.

The lynx management issue that was raised back when the initial project's work stoppage order was issued during the 2000-2002 time period has been cleared up with new, updated lynx management guidelines. While a small portion of this proposed trail route may pass through big game winter range, the Forest Plan specifically allows OSV travel on groomed or ungroomed snowmobile trails through winter range. All of this trail route would be across Forest Service lands or public access easements between Highway 212 and Painter Outpost.

This new trail route would potentially provide important access to services that may include fuel, food, and snowmobile trail user permits at the Painter Outpost. This would be a significant addition to the Beartooths snowmobile trail system since there are currently no on-trail services or permit vendors available on the Wyoming side of this snowmobiling area. Access to these services would enhance snowmobiling safety, particularly when weather conditions become poor on top of the mountain.

Photo 1 below provides a general overview of the entire area between Highway 212 and Painter Outpost: the gravel pit area and origin of FSR 181 is just to the left of the sharp curve in Highway 212 at the top of the aerial photo, while Painter Outpost is located at the bottom of the photo along Highway 296 in the Van Dyke Drive area.

Photo 1: Aerial photo of general area

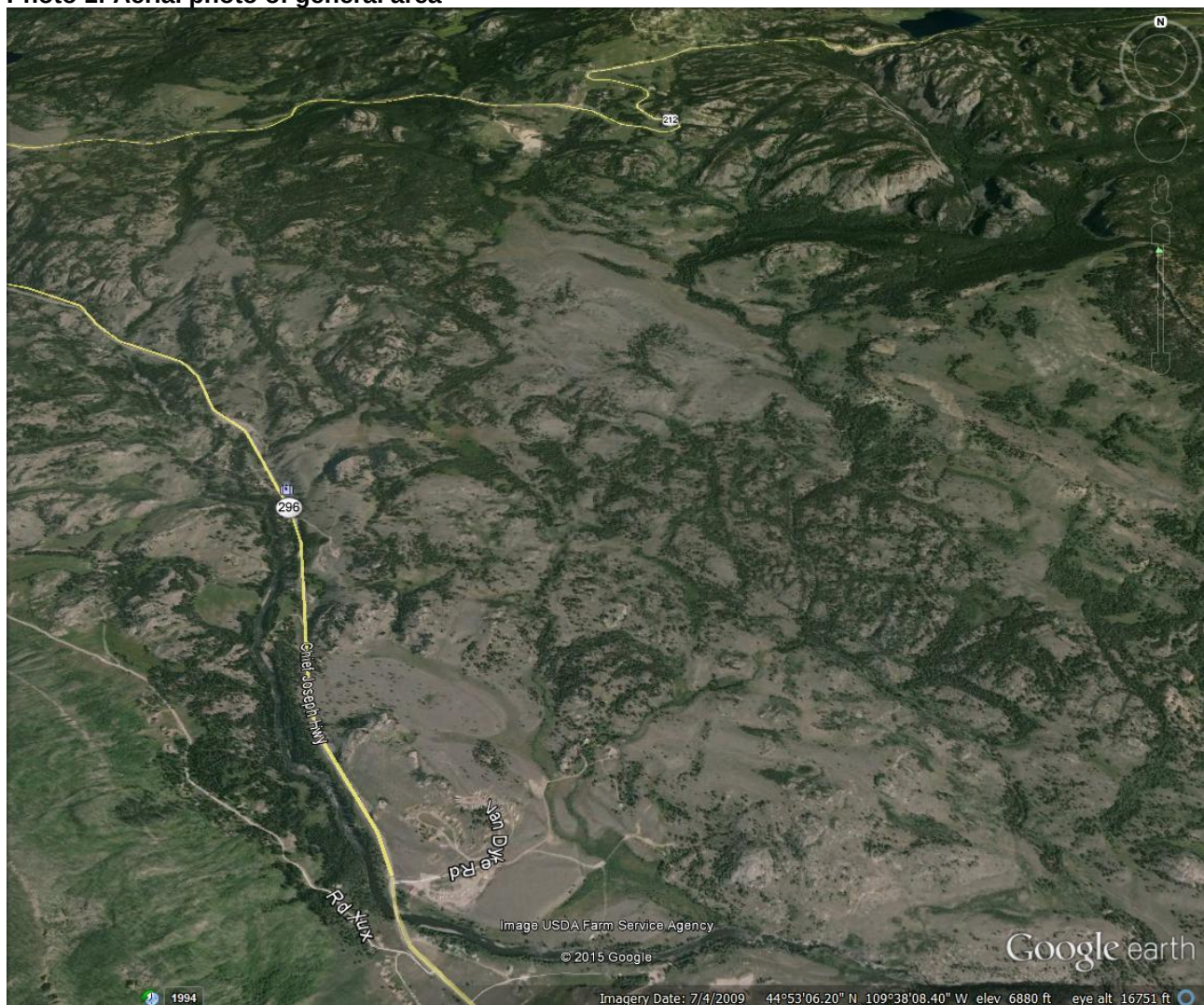


Photo 2 below shows FSR 181 and FSR 181E which would be used for the northern portion of this snowmobile trail, leading south from the gravel pit to where it connects with an old wagon road.

Photo 2: Aerial photo showing FSR 181 and FSR 181E south of the gravel pit



Photo 3 below shows the general area through which the proposed snowmobile trail route would travel from the southern terminus of FSR 181E, where it would follow an old wagon trail until it reaches private property at Painter Outpost. While a photo showing the exact route of this old wagon route isn't included at this time, we expect that GPS coordinates for this entire route will be submitted in the near future.

Photo 3: Aerial photo showing remaining area between the southern terminus of FSR 181E (yellow marker) and Painter Outpost (green marker)



The Cody Country Snowmobile Association and its members appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal. We would gladly help coordinate a field trip to review this proposed route if needed. Please give this proposal fair consideration since it could become an extremely important piece for the long-term viability of our trail system. Thank you for your partnership with snowmobilers.

Sincerely,
Levi Signor

Levi Signor, President
Cody Country Snowmobile Association

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bert Miller, Director



Dustin Rosencranse, Director



Rob Marshall, Director



Dennis Meabon, Director

