

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.

This proposal is to close all areas important for grizzly bears, including habitat within the primary conservation area to sustain the Yellowstone grizzly bear population and areas identified in state management plans as biologically suitable and socially acceptable for grizzly bear occupancy.

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.

All locations across the entire forest identified as important for grizzly bears (see above).

3. Why is your proposal desired or needed?

The Shoshone Land Management Plan (May 2015) states that the goals for managing the grizzly population include accommodating grizzly bear populations to the extent that accommodation is compatible with the goals and objectives of other uses (“TES-GOAL-03”). The Forest Service also has a duty, independent and on top of the multiple use mandate, to meaningfully apply Executive Orders 11644 and 11989. When designating areas or trails available for off-road vehicle use (including OSV use), the executive orders require the agency locate them to minimize damage to natural resources, minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats, and minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses.

The Shoshone provides habitat for grizzly bear, a threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Grizzly bear denning habitat often overlaps with winter recreation areas, and grizzly bears are susceptible to disturbance, which increases energy expenditures and the potential of den abandonment. See Winter Wildlands Alliance, Snowmobile Best Management Practices for Forest Service Travel Planning: A Comprehensive Literature Review and Recommendations for Management (Dec. 2014), page 9, available at <http://winterwildlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/BMP-Report.pdf> (Attachment A) (providing best management practices (BMPs) as guidelines, based on peer-reviewed science, for OSV designation decisions made to minimize impacts to wildlife, water quality, soils, and vegetation). Careful management of winter recreation can help avoid this conflict.

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Stamp
Here*

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