

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 Canada lynx, including primary and secondary maternal and denning habitat, occupied and unoccupied lynx habitat, and linkage corridors.

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 Canada lynx (see above).

3. Why is your proposal desired or needed?

The Shoshone provides habitat for Canada lynx, a threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Shoshone Land Management Plan (May 2015) states that the goals for managing the Canada lynx population include conserving the lynx and its habitat by maintaining or restoring conditions for foraging and denning habitat (“TES-GOAL-04”). 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.

Compacted snow trails and play areas help facilitate coyote movement into Canada lynx habitat. See Winter Wildlands Alliance, Snowmobile Best Management Practices for Forest Service Travel Planning: A Comprehensive Literature Review and Recommendations for Management (Dec. 2014), page 11, 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. Snowmobiles disturb lynx. See Bunnell et al., Potential Impacts of Coyotes and Snowmobiles on Lynx Conservation in the Intermountain West, Wildlife Society Bulletin 34(3):828-838 (2006).

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Here*

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