

Ostrom, Ken -FS

From: Kim Wilbert [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 10:43 AM
To: Stresser, Susan R -FS
Cc: Robertson, Robert N -FS; Troxel, Olga -FS; Salzmann, Kristie L -FS
Subject: Re: Winter Travel Proposal

Hi Sue,

Our proposal is simply to make sure all the crucial winter ranges identified in the Forest Plan are closed to recreational snowmobiling. Unfortunately, I don't have the ability to look at the final plan to see if there are still motorized winter "exclusions" (meaning winter motorized is allowed) within Plan designated Crucial Winter Range.

Prior to whatever changes were made to the Forest Plan after the objection meeting, there were numerous areas where winter motorized use was allowed within Crucial Winter Range. One of my objections focused on that problem. Joe assured me some of those conflicting uses were "fixed", but as far as I know that only applied to some areas on the Washakie District. Since I lack the capability to compare the winter motorized maps with the maps showing winter motorized, I can't state specific areas where there is a conflict between these two uses. Therefore, the most concrete proposal I could articulate was to ask that we make sure, through the TMP, that motorized use is not allowed within Crucial Winter Ranges, whether they be moose, elk, or deer ranges.

Thanks for your response,

Kim Wilbert
Chapter Chair
Sierra Club Wyoming Chapter
[REDACTED]

On Fri, Jan 22, 2016 at 5:11 AM, Stresser, Susan R -FS <ssstresser@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Hi Kim, thank you for your proposal. Do you have a specific area in mind (moose habitat?) or is this a general recommendation? Thanks, Sue

Susan Stresser
District Ranger, Shoshone NF

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 21, 2016, at 8:24 PM, "Kim Wilbert" [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Sue,

The Sierra Club Wyoming Chapter respectfully submits the proposal that the winter travel management plan must eliminate cross country winter motorized travel from designated crucial winter range on the North Zone Districts of the Shoshone National Forest. It just doesn't make sense to allow off-trail over the snow motorized recreation in *any* crucial winter range areas.

We have heard the notion expressed that if the snow is deep enough for snow machines, wintering game animals will have left the area. We have seen moose in three plus feet of snow, plenty for snowmobiles. Our bottom line is that these areas have been carefully designated by professional wildlife managers as **crucial winter range, accepted by Forest**

Service managers as such in the Forest Plan, and should not support a conflicting use like unrestricted recreational over the snow travel.

Just because one aspect of a hill is snowy enough on a given day for over snow motorized travel, does not mean animals utilizing the other side of the same hill will not be disturbed by motorized activity on the snowy side. This fact, as well as the non-existent definition of 'winter use' (winter use = any time you can use an over snow machine, allowing different use rules at different times of the same day!) creates too much room for interpretation to allow over snow motorized use in designated crucial winter range. Wyoming's wildlife is one of our most treasured and valuable resources, and we must have a forest travel plan that unconditionally protects that resource during the winter season.

If we need to get into second-guessing the boundaries of crucial winter range accepted into the Final Forest Plan, then we need to carefully re-study each acre so designated. We suggest the travel plan should respect the crucial winter range boundaries designated in the Final Plan, and eliminate off trail motorized use in crucial winter range.

Thank you, *Kim Wilbert*

Chapter Chair

Sierra Club Wyoming Chapter

