

Winter Wildlands Alliance Proposal 1
Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input

Ranger District: All districts

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 require 18 inches of uncompacted snow before allowing snowmobile travel on the forest. Minimum snow depths can be determined and enforced in a number of ways. We suggest that the Shoshone follow the example of other national forests with minimum snow depth requirements. On these forests official snow depth measurements are taken by USFS personnel until the snowpack is at sufficient depth. Measurements are available at District offices and it is the user's responsibility to check and see whether the snow is deep enough to allow OSV use. In areas where the snowpack varies throughout the winter season additional measurements should occur as conditions warrant.

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.

Forest-wide

3. Why is your proposal desired or needed?

Snow depth restrictions help to protect vegetation, subnivean habitat, and soils by ensuring that there is sufficient snow to support the weight of over-snow vehicles and buffer the impact of their use on these resources. Please see *Snowmobile Best Management Practices for Forest Service Travel Planning* for more information and studies to support this depth restriction.

<http://winterwildlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/BMP-Final.pdf>

