



Rick Metzger
District Ranger

Forest Service
Shoshone National Forest, Wind River Ranger District

p: 307-455-4151
rmetzger@fs.fed.us

PO Box 186
Dubois, WY 82513
www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: Larry Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2016 9:33 AM
To: Metzger, Rick -FS
Subject: Input regarding Winter Travel Planning

Hi Rick

I would appreciate this input being considered as you work toward Winter Travel Plans.

Protection of Winter Range for Big Game animals is vital to continued long term herd health for elk, deer, antelope, big horn sheep and moose. Your team and Wyoming Game & Fish are in a better position than I am to make specific recommendations but I trust that you will consider protection of Winter Range as a mandated concern.

In looking at the maps a couple of areas of Winter Range look like they could use further protection or a greater buffer from motorized recreation:

The North and East Flanks of Windy Mountain- where FS abuts G& F established winter range should be removed from access to motorized winter travel. The Wildcat Loop road would serve as an ideal boundary with no motorized use east of that line in the area of the north and west flank of Windy Mountain.

The Bonneville Pass area deserves some consideration as a nonmotorized area to the west of the current closed areas to protect Big Horn sheep habitat. Noise and disturbance in the upper drainages could be a significant disturbance to wintering sheep.

Regarding the Deception Creek Cross Country Ski Area: This area needs to be officially withdrawn from motorized recreation as it sees significant nonmotorized use and is one of the few areas on the forest locally that is readily and historically accessed by a large number of cross country skiers. A reasonable boundary area would be on the east from Brooks

Lake Creek south of the highway - around the rim to the south, back to the west just east of the Moccasin Basin road and then the highway as the north boundary.

As with summer travel, enforcement of existing regulations is key.

thank you for the opportunity to comment

Larry Lewis
Dubois, Wyoming

