

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Joseph E. Tilden, Chairman
Lee Livingston, Vice Chairman
Tim A. French, Commissioner
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PARK COUNTY, WYOMING
ORGANIZED 1911

ORIGINAL PARK COUNTY COURTHOUSE
CODY, WYOMING
COMPLETED 1912

County of Park

November 16, 2015

Sue Stresser, Wapiti District Ranger
Shoshone National Forest



Wapiti Ranger District

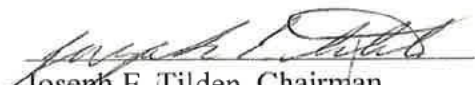
NOV 20 2015

Dear Sue:

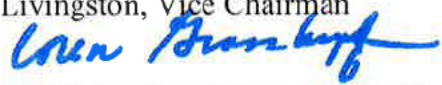
We respectfully submit the attached comments related to the Shoshone National Forest North Zone proposed travel management. The Board supports access to the Forest by means most readily available to the citizens of and visitors to Park County, who have and will continue to enjoy recreational opportunities afforded by balanced management of the Forest. We believe expanded access via the proposed roads and trails, particularly Forest system roads that have been used by the public for decades, are sustainable, are the preferred method of access, and represent a small footprint in the overall management area.

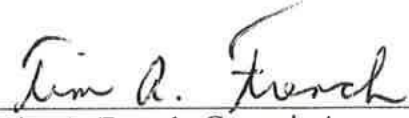
Sincerely,

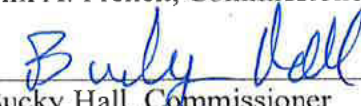
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PARK COUNTY, WYOMING**


Joseph E. Tilden, Chairman


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Tim A. French, Commissioner


Bucky Hall, Commissioner

enclosure

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Clarks Fork

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-01 Line Creek

Proposal: Motorized Trail – connect FSR 123.1B to 140 and new construction connecting 140 with 121

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, is in favor of the motorized trail connecting FSR 123.1B to 140 and new construction connecting 140 with 121 as per the travel management handout. The Board's support for new construction will be given only after careful consideration of impacts to all parts of the landscape is completed, including but not limited to: wildlife and habitat, economic cost, and terrain. (The proposed loop is outside of the grizzly bear PCA.)

The Board supports increased public access to the Shoshone National Forest via roads and OHV trail use. Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

Currently 85% of the Shoshone National Forest is roadless. This results in a 95% use density concentrated in the 15% of road-accessible forest areas, with only 5% accessing roadless regions. We would argue that the existing land management reflected by these ratios does not meet the goal of balance for multiple uses. Additionally, further limiting roads and trails does not support the needs of present generations, whose population includes those reliant on motorized vehicles to provide access to the Forest. We anticipate that, as populations increase in future generations, more people will utilize the recreational opportunities available by accessing the Forest via roads and trails. (Note: Where proposed road or trail closures may be prompted by the Forest Service's concerns related to cost to maintain, Park County may be willing to partner with the private sector or other entities to discover additional/alternative sources of revenue.)

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Clarks Fork

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-03 Morrison Jeep Trail

Proposal: New Gate – construct gate on FSR 120

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, is in favor of moving the gate on the Morrison Jeep Trail to the proposed gate location, but also suggests consideration be given to relocating it to the original gate location, as indicated on Map 2. The Morrison Jeep Trail and additional road/trail created by relocating the gate are outside of the grizzly bear PCA.

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Clarks Fork

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-04 Little Sunlight Trailhead

Proposal: Motorized Trailhead – construct additional trailhead with parking

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, is in favor of the proposed motorized trailhead and construction of an additional trailhead infrastructure with parking on the east side of State Hwy 296, with the condition that the existing campground remains on the west side of Hwy 296, and further, that the expanded infrastructure on the east side be designated an official Forest Service campground (now has dispersed camping status). The Board's support for new construction will be given only after careful consideration of impacts to all parts of the landscape is completed, including but not limited to: wildlife and habitat, economic cost, and terrain.

Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

Currently 85% of the Shoshone National Forest is roadless. This results in a 95% use density concentrated in the 15% of road-accessible forest areas, with only 5% accessing roadless regions. We would argue that the existing land management reflected by these ratios does not meet the goal of balance for multiple uses. Additionally, further limiting roads and trails does not support the needs of present generations, whose population includes those reliant on motorized vehicles to provide access to the Forest. We anticipate that, as populations increase in future generations, more people will utilize the recreational opportunities available by accessing the Forest via roads and trails. (Note: Where proposed road or trail closures may be prompted by the Forest Service's concerns related to cost to maintain, Park County may be willing to partner with the private sector or other entities to discover additional/alternative sources of revenue.)

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
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Ranger District: Clarks Fork

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-05 Clarks Fork Wild and Scenic (W&S) Corridor

Proposal: Road Closure – close portion of FSR 165 and 178.1B

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, strongly opposes the closure of portions of FSR 165 and 178.1B.

The Board supports increased public access to the Shoshone National Forest via roads and OHV trail use. The Board also asserts that no road or trail closures within the North Zone of the Forest are warranted, especially forest system roads that have been used by the public for decades.

Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

Currently 85% of the Shoshone National Forest is roadless. This results in a 95% use density concentrated in the 15% of road-accessible forest areas, with only 5% accessing roadless regions. We would argue that the existing land management reflected by these ratios does not meet the goal of balance for multiple uses. Additionally, further limiting roads and trails does not support the needs of present generations, whose population includes those reliant on motorized vehicles to provide access to the Forest. We anticipate that, as populations increase in future generations, more people will utilize the recreational opportunities available by accessing the Forest via roads and trails. (Note: Where proposed road or trail closures may be prompted by the Forest Service's concerns related to cost to maintain, Park County may be willing to partner with the private sector or other entities to discover additional/alternative sources of revenue.)

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Wapiti

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-07 Sweetwater Creek

Proposal: Road Closure – close portion of FSR 423

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, strongly opposes the closure of a portion of FSR 423.

The Board supports increased public access to the Shoshone National Forest via roads and OHV trail use. The Board also asserts that no road or trail closures within the North Zone of the Forest are warranted, especially forest system roads that have been used by the public for decades.

Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

Currently 85% of the Shoshone National Forest is roadless. This results in a 95% use density concentrated in the 15% of road-accessible forest areas, with only 5% accessing roadless regions. We would argue that the existing land management reflected by these ratios does not meet the goal of balance for multiple uses. Additionally, further limiting roads and trails does not support the needs of present generations, whose population includes those reliant on motorized vehicles to provide access to the Forest. We anticipate that, as populations increase in future generations, more people will utilize the recreational opportunities available by accessing the Forest via roads and trails. (Note: Where proposed road or trail closures may be prompted by the Forest Service's concerns related to cost to maintain, Park County may be willing to partner with the private sector or other entities to discover additional/alternative sources of revenue.)

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Wapiti

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-08 Elk Fork

Proposal: Road Closure – close portion of FSR 424

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, strongly opposes the closure of a portion of FSR 424.

The Board supports increased public access to the Shoshone National Forest via roads and OHV trail use. The Board also asserts that no road or trail closures within the North Zone of the Forest are warranted, especially forest system roads that have been used by the public for decades.

Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

Currently 85% of the Shoshone National Forest is roadless. This results in a 95% use density concentrated in the 15% of road-accessible forest areas, with only 5% accessing roadless regions. We would argue that the existing land management reflected by these ratios does not meet the goal of balance for multiple uses. Additionally, further limiting roads and trails does not support the needs of present generations, whose population includes those reliant on motorized vehicles to provide access to the Forest. We anticipate that, as populations increase in future generations, more people will utilize the recreational opportunities available by accessing the Forest via roads and trails. (Note: Where proposed road or trail closures may be prompted by the Forest Service's concerns related to cost to maintain, Park County may be willing to partner with the private sector or other entities to discover additional/alternative sources of revenue.)

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Wapiti

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-10 Carter Mountain

Proposal: Motorized Trail – connect FSR 474 to 474.2C

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, supports the proposed motorized trail to connect FSR 474 to 474.2C. The proposed looped trail does not require constructing new road/trail as it lies in an old road bed. The proposed trail is outside of the grizzly bear PCA.

The Board supports increased public access to the Shoshone National Forest via roads and OHV trail use. The Board also asserts that no road or trail closures within the North Zone of the Forest are warranted, especially forest system roads that have been used by the public for decades.

Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

Currently 85% of the Shoshone National Forest is roadless. This results in a 95% use density concentrated in the 15% of road-accessible forest areas, with only 5% accessing roadless regions. We would argue that the existing land management reflected by these ratios does not meet the goal of balance for multiple uses. Additionally, further limiting roads and trails does not support the needs of present generations, whose population includes those reliant on motorized vehicles to provide access to the Forest. We anticipate that, as populations increase in future generations, more people will utilize the recreational opportunities available by accessing the Forest via roads and trails. (Note: Where proposed road or trail closures may be prompted by the Forest Service's concerns related to cost to maintain, Park County may be willing to partner with the private sector or other entities to discover additional/alternative sources of revenue.)

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Greybull

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-12 Gwinn Fork / Timber Creek

Proposal: Motorized Trail – open the closed portion of FSR 202.2C

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, supports the proposed motorized trail, opening the closed portion of FSR 202.2C. The proposed trail is outside of the grizzly bear PCA. The Board also supports the proposed conversion of the non-system road connecting 204.2E to 203.1B as it is also outside the grizzly bear PCA.

Whether it has seasonal closures or restriction of trail sign or type could be subject to on-the-ground land manager input.

The Board favors increased public access to the Shoshone National Forest via roads and OHV trail use. Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

Currently 85% of the Shoshone National Forest is roadless. This results in a 95% use density concentrated in the 15% of road-accessible forest areas, with only 5% accessing roadless regions. We would argue that the existing land management reflected by these ratios does not meet the goal of balance for multiple uses. Additionally, further limiting roads and trails does not support the needs of present generations, whose population includes those reliant on motorized vehicles to provide access to the Forest. We anticipate that, as populations increase in future generations, more people will utilize the recreational opportunities available by accessing the Forest via roads and trails. (Note: Where proposed road or trail closures may be prompted by the Forest Service's concerns related to cost to maintain, Park County may be willing to partner with the private sector or other entities to discover additional/alternative sources of revenue.)

Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Greybull

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-13 Aspen Trail

Proposal: Motorized Trail – connect FSR 201.1A to 217

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, supports the proposed motorized trail to connect FSR 201.1A to 217. The proposed has potential to provide a looped trail with possible seasonal closure. There are currently no similar existing trails in the North Zone of the Forest. The proposed loop is outside of the grizzly bear PCA.

The Board supports increased public access to the Shoshone National Forest via roads and OHV trail use. Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

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Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Greybull

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-14 Gooseberry

Proposal: Road – create loop on FSR 213

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, supports the proposed road to create a loop on FSR 213; however, new construction will be supported only after careful consideration of its impacts to all parts of the landscape, including but not limited to: wildlife and habitat, economic cost, and terrain. The proposed segments involve new construction but utilizing closed roads, existing trails, or old logging roads. Construction of these potential loops will provide high quality experiences sorely needed in the northern portion of the Shoshone National Forest. (The proposed roads are outside of the grizzly bear PCA.)

The Board supports increased public access to the Shoshone National Forest via roads and OHV trail use. Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

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Shoshone National Forest Travel Management
Request for Public Input
Comment Form

Ranger District: Greybull

Comments on Current Proposals

1. Which proposal are you commenting on?

NZ-15 Grass Creek

Proposal: Road – create multiple loops between FSR 213 and 218

2. Provide comments below on the proposal: (continue on back if needed)

Please be specific and provide rationale for your position. In other words why do you like or dislike about the proposal.

The Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Wyoming, supports the proposed road to create multiple loops between FSR 213 and 218. Construction is needed but the proposed lies in an old road bed. The proposed road is outside of the grizzly bear PCA.

The Board supports increased public access to the Shoshone National Forest via roads and OHV trail use. Our position is in keeping with the intent of the Department of Agriculture's Land Management Plan, which states that National Forests are 'managed by law for multiple uses,' that these uses 'must be balanced,' and 'the Department believes such choices and evaluations are best made at the local level' (Department of Agriculture Forest Service 36 CFR); and is compatible with the goal of sustainability as defined by the USDA Forest Service as 'to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.'

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