Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/11/2021 11:00:00 AM
First name: Phil
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: [External Email]Shoshone NF Travel Management Planning Project -- PRIOR REQUIREMENT

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RE: Mapping Required Prior to Shoshone NF Travel Management Plan

To:

Forest Supervisor Lisa Timchak;

Environmental Coordinator Mark Foster;

Shoshone National Forest, USDA

via e-mail -- 11 November 2021.

Dear Forest Supervisor Timchak,

and Environmental Coordinator Foster:

Two special areas have been established by federal law on the Shoshone National Forest - the DuNoir Special Management Unit (on October 9, 1972, by P.L. 92-476) and the High Lakes Wilderness Study Area (on October 30, 1984, by the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984, P.L. 98-550).

For both of these areas, the original statutes directed that "a map and legal description" be prepared. The map and legal description must be filed with the House and Senate Committees of jurisdiction. This is to be done "As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect..." in each case. By each statute, the map and legal description are to be on file for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the

Forest Service. Of course, those maps are to be based on the intent of Congress, based on the record, which is extensive.

When the Land Management Plan for the Shoshone National Forest was revised in 2012-2015, I filed a formal Objection to the Draft Decision, because those two maps and legal descriptions had NOT been prepared nor filed with the Committees. The final Record of Decision approving that Land Management Plan, signed by then-Regional-Forester Daniel J. Jir[oacute]n on May 6, 2015, included a commitment at Page 26, Issue B-5, that this mapping would be done "as soon as practical."

These maps and legal descriptions were required by law to be done promptly after October 1972 and October 1984. The Shoshone promised to do them as a condition of approval of the Land Management Plan revision in May 2015.

In November, 2021, have these maps and legal descriptions been formally completed? Have they been filed with the House and Senate Committees? Does the Forest Service have receipts from the Committees for them? Are they on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief?

If so, please tell me whom I should contact in the Office of the Chief so I can inspect these documents.

If these maps and legal descriptions have not been prepared and formally filed as required by statute, I do not believe the Forest can comply with NEPA for preparation of a Travel Management Plan. The "affected environment" is in part defined by these legislated areas. If the statutory requirements for determining their boundaries have not been met, a proper analysis of impacts cannot be done. These long-overdue steps of mapping and legal description, and filing those with the Committees, must be completed first.

I look forward to learning the status of this problem. Because this is fundamental to proper analysis of the proposed Travel Management Plan, I hope to hear soon. Thank you both for your attention and response.

Sincerely,

Phil

Philip M. Hocker

Conservationist

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cc: Sarah Walker, Wyoming Wilderness Association

-- and concerned parties.