

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/11/2021 11:00:00 AM

First name: Brittany

Last name: Chinigo

Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Shoshone NF Travel Management Planning Project

[External Email]

If this message comes from an unexpected sender or references a vague/unexpected topic;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Dear Mark,

As you know, the Shoshone National Forest holds some of the most wild, vast, and scenic public lands in the world. It provides important habitat for our nation's treasured wildlife and is a place where human and plant communities can thrive. It's important that we protect the ecological integrity of our nation's public lands, which is why I'm submitting these comments to you for consideration as you finalize your Travel Management Plan.

Research indicates that both motorized and quiet recreationists can have a negative effect on wildlife. Between human impact and habitat disruption, estimated wildlife casualties are a source of concern. Therefore, I support decommissioning routes and seasonal closures that will benefit elk, deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, moose, grizzly bears, wolverines, nesting raptors, and other wildlife species.

There is also evidence that indicates a high density of motorized routes negatively affects wildlife. It is therefore important to ensure that there is no net increase to the wheeled motorized footprint. The Forest needs to address illegal routes, enforcement mechanisms, and secure sustainable funding to maintain its current road and trail system. In order to preserve the ecological integrity of these public lands, I oppose any permanent motorized use in Inventoried Roadless Areas, the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Wild and Scenic River Corridor, and the Line Creek Plateau Research Natural Area.

In addition, climate scientists have demonstrated how the environment is changing, and that high elevation terrain will serve as areas of refuge for plant and wildlife species sensitive to temperature, moisture, and other aspects predicted in climate modeling. Please ensure the Winter OSV Use Season ends by April 30th to help reduce potential conflict amongst the forest's various visitors, and provide refuge for wildlife, lichen, and sensitive vegetation. The Forest should also work to reduce overlapping projects that could lead to future conflict, while utilizing climate projections to make lasting and impactful decisions.

I'd also like to request that the Forest limit OSV use within the High Lakes Wilderness Study Area to only designated trails shown in Alternative 4, in order to better adhere to the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments during this process. It's important to me that America's first national forest can balance a variety of uses, but it is especially important that we protect the animals, plants, and water that call this land home, and who cannot speak for themselves.

Regards,

Brittany Chinigo

[PII]