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

[External Email]

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Dear Mark,

As you know, the Shoshone National Forest holds some of the most wild, vast, and scenic public lands in the world. Because it borders the world's national park, it provides important habitat for our nation's treasured wildlife and is a place where human and plant communities can thrive. It's important for me to 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.

To start, well-known research indicates that both motorized and quiet recreationalists can have negative effects on wildlife. Elevated heart rates, issues with reproduction, and habitat disruption resulting in casualties are big concerns. Therefore, I support route decommissions and seasonal closures that benefit elk, deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, moose, grizzly bears, wolverines, nesting raptors, and other wildlife species.

It has also been proven that a high density of motorized routes negatively affects wildlife. Because of this, please ensure 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.

Additionally, science shows the climate is changing and 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 30 to help reduce conflicts among various forest uses and provide refuge for wildlife, lichen, and sensitive vegetation. The Forest should also thoughtfully reduce impacts of known overlapping uses that lead to conflicts while utilizing future climate projections to make lasting and impactful decisions.

Finally, I'd also like to request 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 the needs of a wide variety of uses, but especially for the animal, plants, and water that cannot speak for themselves.

Regards,

Mike Acosta