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Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Shoshone NF Travel Management Planning Project - Please DO NOT add new roads and trails in WRRD

[External Email]

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To: Shoshone NF Management:

Please concentrate on maintaining, enforcing regulations and improving the 331 miles of existing trails in the Wind River Ranger District (WRRD) where there is the least demand, lots of existing ATV roads with the most enforcement problems in the SNF!

As Dubois WY residents who snowshoe, used to ride horses throughout, bring family and guests to enjoy our trails plus still hike even in our senior years, please DO NOT add new motorized trails and loops with its resulting construction degradation. There is enough of that already. We recommend you seriously reviewed the WY Wilderness Association's photos and information of existing trail problems. Please DO NOT approve WR07, WR13, WR03, WR90, WR11 and WR78, the natural assets of these areas need to be protected. SNF Management knows only too well that roadless areas are becoming more rare and can't be duplicated once destroyed, plus wildlife has enough trouble finding safe, desirable habitat. In the WRRD, our Whiskey Mountain bighorn herd has serious pneumonia die-offs. This once thriving herd had drastic declines from about 2,000 animals in the 1990s and now down to about 400 bighorns. And the trend isn't improving. Snowmobiles and ATVs add to the stresses on wildlife. We can attest to the challenge of riding horses, or even hiking, when a speeding, mud splashing or dust cloud creating ATV roars past you!

Wildlife stresses include noise, fracturing habitat and migration avenues to actually chasing animals with motorized vehicles. As someone who snowshoes in the Deception area, it's dangerous to snowshoe in our gorgeous WY moonlight only to stumble across a snowmobile track that was illegally made on the cross-country trails groomed by local volunteers. Your support for seasonal road closures December 1 - April 30 are much appreciated. Thanks you! We also ask you to please support formalizing the OSV closure around these Deception trails.

Many local residents, us included, and two organizations - Greater Yellowstone Coalition and WY Wilderness Association - plus many others are all interested and focused on the Fitzpatrick, Absaroka, Wind River areas. We

ask you to please care for the 331 miles of existing trails as our population impact grows and forests disappear!

We've previously submitted comments like the ones above. Would you please let me know if you still have a copy of these thanks and requests to honor public opinion? Your forest job has many challenges, like pine bark beetles and global warming placing extreme demands on the forest and SNF staff decisions without many good choices. But taking care of what you already have is less costly and more effective management for a mutually beneficial future.

Thank you for your hard work on a magnificent forest - Kathy & Larry Treanor

Kathy Treanor

[PII]