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Comments: [External Email]Shoshone Travel Management Planning Project

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Some comments on the proposed changes to the travel management plan. As a person who has enjoyed this public land as a snowmobiler, I agree with the below comments.

1. The Forest Service used a science-based approach to develop seasons of use dates for Over Snow Vehicles (OSV) use, Nov. 1st through June 15th on most of the districts. For these zones, the proposed season is an appropriate length for protecting our resources, wildlife, as well as giving snowmobilers a fair seasonal window to recreate. Some organizations including Winter Wildlands Alliance and Teton Backcountry Alliance are pushing for a season end date of April 30th or earlier. We all know big storms can still arrive throughout April and May, and all users should be allowed to take advantage of late season snow.

2. We support the creation of new motorized trails which provide better access to our public lands. We also urge The Forest Service to create multi-use single track trails, which are virtually non-existent on the 2.44-million-acre Shoshone National Forest.

3. We urge the Forest Service to maintain a voluntary closure at the Pinnacles/Deception Peak Nordic ski area, rather than instating a permanent closure. The Forest Service agrees the voluntary closure has reduced conflict in this area between OSV and Nordic skiers. Through education and advocacy, we can continue to give Nordic skiers a place to enjoy our public lands in this front country location outside of Dubois, without worrying about snowmobiles coming around corners in the trail. In this situation, a voluntary closure is appropriate, while a permanent closure would be much more difficult to reverse if use patterns change.

Thanks

Cody Telford