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

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Dear Mark,

I am writing today to submit comments to you for consideration as you finalize your Travel Management Plan for the Shoshone National Forest. I strongly believe that it is extremely important to protect the ecological integrity of our nation's public lands.

This vast landscape includes some of the most wild and scenic public lands in the world. Bordering Yellowstone National Park, it provides important habitat for our nation's treasured wildlife and is a place where human and plant communities can thrive. Established research indicates that both motorized and quiet recreationalists can have negative effects on wildlife. Among the concerns are issues with overall wildlife health, reproduction, and habitat disruption resulting in casualties. 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.

Another vital consideration is that science shows the climate is changing and high elevation landscapes and 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 that 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.

Regards,

Kathleen May

[PII]