

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

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Title:

Comments: [External Email]Shoshone NF Travel Plan comments:

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Mark: Please make these comments an official part of the record re: Travel Plan for the Shoshone National Forest.

First, I want to strongly support the comments submitted to you by the Wyoming Wilderness Association. I urge you to pay close attention to them, and to fix the problems that have been identified within them.

Secondly, I'd like to specifically address the tragedy of the Wyoming High Lakes WSA. I am appalled by your agency's shoddy treatment of this special place. I can say that because I first ventured into the High Lakes country clear on back in the mid-to-late 1970s. The High Lakes area was a truly magnificent wild place back then. Yes there was some snowmobile use back then, but nowhere near as much as is going on these days. The newer lighter machines have allowed snowmobilers to ventures to travel deeper and deeper into the farthest reaches of the WSA. And your plan proposes to allow this to continue and to expand.

I was deeply involved in the passage of the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984 since I was the statewide coordinator for the Wyoming Wilderness Associations grassroots organizing efforts on behalf of protecting a lasting legacy of Wilderness in Wyoming by law. The language pertaining to the management of the Wyoming High Lakes WSA was intended to be a ceiling ---- not a floor ---- for the existing use of snowmobiles in the area until such time when the WSA issue would be resolved by Congress. Tragically, you are attempting to flip the above basic premise on its head so there will not be a single acre of the WSA that won't have a snowmobile track across it! You and your agency's proposal for the High Lakes WSA is simply shameful. In short, the High Lakes WSA surely deserves far better treatment than what you are currently aiming to give it. Period.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bart Koehler

(co-founder; Wyoming Wilderness Association)