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

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Attn: Mark Foster, Environmental Coordinator,

Shoshone National Forest,

808 Meadow Lane Avenue, Cody, WY 82414

Dear Mr. Foster,

I have some comments to make after reviewing the October release of the SNF Travel Management Project Environmental Assessment and the maps enclosed. But first I do want to thank you and all the staff who have been working away at this plan for the last six years for your time and effort !

My chiefest concern is that the roads currently on the forest are under-maintained and overused as they are, especially in the districts I am most familiar with, the Washakie and Wind River. As an example, I travel FS 277 to FS 501 up the East Fork on the Wind River District annually to conduct Breeding Bird Surveys for the USGS, and have done for at least a dozen years. In that time, both roads have clearly received more and more use to the extent that the ruts on 501 have become hazardously deep and treacherous in any weather, never mind the frequent wet conditions up there at altitude. I mention this as but one example of the maintenance backlog on the Forest in general (I could cite multiples of roads off the Loop Road down here on the Washakie District).

In short, I don't think any proposed new roads should be added to the SNF before the critical condition of existing roads is addressed.

A related concern is the winter access season for snowmobile travel. I strongly support a continued date specific season of December 1 to April 15 on at least the Wind River and the Washakie districts. I see so much mud-bogging damage in the early winter and late spring from vehicles attempting access when the snow cover is inadequate and the ground is not hard enough to prevent ensuing permanent changes to the area.

Which brings me to one more specific concern: that road WR26 up above Bear Basin on the Wind River District simply be closed. Again, to protect the habitat from the degradation caused by continuing motorized travel under poor conditions.

Sincerely,

Jazmyn McDonald

[PII]