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First name: Georgie

Last name: Stanley

Organization:

Title:

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

[External Email]

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Dear Mark,

As you know, the Shoshone National Forest provides important habitat for our nation's treasured wildlife and is a place plant communities can thrive. It's important to me that the Shoshone NF protect the ecological integrity of these public lands. Please take my concerns into consideration as you finalize your Travel Management Plan. I have enjoyed the Shoshone National Forest for many years and look forward to more enriching experiences in the future.

To start, well-known research indicates that both motorized and quiet recreationalists can have negative effects on wildlife. Elevated heart rates, issues with reproduction, and habitat disruption resulting in casualties are big concerns. 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 for wheeled motorized access. 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. 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.

Additionally, science shows the climate is changing and high elevation 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 the Winter OSV Use Season ends by April 30 to help reduce conflicts among various forest uses to 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments during this process. It's important to me that America's first national forest can balance the needs of a wide variety of uses, but especially for the animal, plants, and water that cannot speak for themselves.

Regards,

Georgie Stanley