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Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]"Shoshone National Forest travel management planning project"

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Mark Foster, Environmental Coordinator

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Dear planning team

I am a snowmobiler. I enjoy riding every year in the beartooth high lakes snowmobiling area and have a desire to protect the snowmobiling communities access to this as it offers very diverse types of terrain and spectacular scenery.

I would like to express my general support for alternative 4 but feel the following points should be considered:

I am in favor of the proposed season dates from Nov 1st through June 15th as these dates cover the snow season accurately.

I oppose setting depth requirements for snowmobiling access because snow conditions vary so much at times and in different areas that it would be nearly impossible to have a measurement that can be uniformly enforced. Wind, temperature and other factors cause fluctuations in snow depth throughout our riding area and season which make this a bad choice.

I strongly encourage keeping the entire High Lakes Wilderness Study Area open to snowmobiling. In my opinion it shouldn't even be up for discussion! Congress made it very clear years ago that its intent was to protect snowmobiling rights in this entire area - not to exclude any. The area currently open to snowmobiling is all used and enjoyed by many outdoor enthusiasts like me. Decreasing the size of this recreation area in any way will have lasting negative effects on public use and enjoyment and is NOT what was intended for this area.

I oppose allowing class 2 OSV's use of groomed and ungroomed snowmobile trails. These types of vehicles can have very negative impacts on our trails especially in certain types of weather (warm slushy then freezing). I have experienced this firsthand. Depending on conditions these heavier vehicles can cause very deep ruts which create unsafe conditions - especially for inexperienced riders.

I support adding the Ghost Creek trail.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts and opinions. Please help protect what we cherish - access to enjoy our great outdoors!

Sincerely,

Tate McCoy

[PII]