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First name: Dave

Last name: Engelhardt

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Shoshone NF Travel Management Planning Project

Dear Sir/Madam,

I've read the documents/proposals and would offer the following:

1) My wife and I support whichever plan the USFS feels is appropriate using the best available science and your judgment for management practices. If forced to "pick 1 option" we would probably go with Alternative 2.

2) We are both in our mid-late 60's avid outdoors people that hike, fly fish, hunt, camp and own/ride an ATV. Those things being said, we are both thoroughly disgusted with the abuse of public lands by some people on OHV's, ATV's, snow machines or whatever politically correct terminology a person cares to use. We have seen several instances of environmental damage - severe ruts in the roads/trails or off-road near a trail in both the Beartooth and Sunlight Basin areas.

I include snow machine use in that statement, particularly in the Beartooths where they seem to think that anywhere it's possible to ride a snow machine is "fair game". We have some very real concerns about lengthening the riding season as far as impact on landscape and wildlife. This is the first time I've ever commented on USFA policies/land use issues - but we are tired of the loud vocal minority (read that as OHV and snow machine users) constantly clamoring for more access. Our position is that until these groups "police themselves" so to speak and clean up their act as far as obeying the rules; access needs to be limited.

Under any of these proposals, we would definitely like to see pro-active, aggressive enforcement against violators. Being retired from 30+ years in law enforcement and living in Cody, I can tell you that any interactions the we have personally had with USFS personnel (either in the office or in the field) have been favorable - with 1 notable exception. There have been a few instances where we have complained, for lack of a better term, about unkempt campsites - especially Jack Creek on the Greybull River - with bear attractants improperly stored (trash, cheap plastic coolers, etc). In each event I was told, "It's a matter of educating people". That is rubbish, anyone who either can't read the clearly posted regulations or deliberately chooses to ignore them needs a citation. It's a disservice to further users (who end up with a human/grizzly conflict) and the wildlife.

Thanks for letting me vent at the end. The USFS does a good job. Keep managing the public lands based on science.

Dave Engelhardt

Mobile: 307-250-1832

Cody, WY