

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2020 12:00:00 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please : Retain Shoshone National Forest

Dear Shoshone National Forest Supervisor Lisa Timchak,

Respectfully.

As a lifelong coastal, forested Northern Californian and Rural American, I speak from experience. Off Road Vehicles (ORV) create extensive damage and lingering harm to ecosystems as well as to specifically designated access areas for human activity?whether these fish, bird, wildlife and botanical ecosystems are considered to be hardy or determined to be delicate.

Please carefully consider the consequences, and restrict ORV within Northwestern Wyoming?s Shoshone National Forest.

After extensive pressure to conform to ORV engine-run vehicles and cross-country bikes within our expansive, grand far-north-coast Redwood forests and our once pristine beaches?wherever allowed?the level of structural, environmental, habitat damage and erosion from ORV enthusiasts has been a real and continual hardship?across the actual, aesthetic and financial spectrum:

- . The aesthetic costs from negative consequences are immeasurable.
- . The annual physical monitoring and labor expenses to effectively maintain both designated, accessible and restricted areas is never-ending.
- . It is a considerable taxpayer-funded sum within ever-dwindling budgets.

After over four decades of observation, it could be said that ORV enthusiasts:

- . Do not honor areas that have become specifically open to their usage.
- . Perceived of actual limitations become temptations that beckon ORV enthusiasts to cavalierly ignore.
- . There is an incessant will to drive or peddle into, over, across, through, beyond clearly marked barriers. . These transgressions are easily achieved because of the inability to even adequately monitor the most popular locations, let alone the more isolated ones.
- . Oversight is physically and financially prohibited in the short and long term.

I implore you to do everything in your power to secure the highest protections for OUR nation?s unique bird, fish, wildlife habitats and botanical environments?specifically Shoshone National Forest.

As you are aware, like OUR National and State Redwood Parks, Preserves, Monuments and Refuges, Shoshone National Forest is a treasure. Photographers from throughout our country and the world, honor it with countless inspiring images. Images that may become mere historical documentation of a once thriving, sacred site.

Please.

. Reject all proposals that would reduce responsible recreation.

. Focus on a steward-base plan that prioritizes the irreplaceable values that Shoshone National Forest possesses.

With appreciation for your time and thoughtful consideration of this far reaching concern.

Every good intention.

Dear Supervisor Timchak,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Shoshone National Forest Travel Management Plan's preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA). As an American, I am keenly interested in how Shoshone National Forest's public lands are managed.

The Shoshone National Forest, surrounding the eastern and southern sides of Yellowstone National Park and providing essential habitat for a myriad of wildlife species that live throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecoregion, is a special forest with a unique wild character, and it should receive the best possible management. Unfortunately, I don't think the preliminary EA measures up to the high management standard that is needed, in numerous ways.

Because of the unique location and wild character of the Shoshone National Forest, the Forest Service should prioritize protection of wildlife and critical wildlife habitat on the Shoshone, but I don't see that prioritization in this preliminary assessment. I see the potential for significant impacts to wildlife from existing and expanded motorized use, both winter and summer, and I do not see appropriate detailed analysis of those potential impacts in the EA. For example, grizzly bears as they emerge from hibernation likely will be impacted by late season snowmobiling and motorized snow biking in some areas that are open to motorized use. Ungulates with newborn calves may be significantly harmed by motorized use, both snow-based and land-based vehicles. All potential impacts to wildlife from motorized travel on the forest must be identified and appropriately analyzed, and that hasn't been adequately done in this EA.

Potential conflicts between motorized and non-motorized recreational users, both winter and summer, are not analyzed, and measures to avoid or minimize those impacts are not evaluated. Potential impacts of motorized use to riparian areas, wet meadows, steep hills with substantial erosion potential, or other resource-damaging problems are not adequately analyzed.

In light of the many obvious potential significant impacts to wildlife, conflicts between different types of recreation uses, and possible damage to natural resources, it is apparent that an EA is not sufficient. I therefore urge you to

withdraw this inadequate EA and redo the necessary analyses of all potentially significant impacts in an Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rita A

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