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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Shoshone Winter Travel Management

Dear Mr. Foster:

I wish to comment on the Shoshone winter travel management plan. I tried to submit comments electronically but cannot do so because "recaptcha cannot be contacted". I incur this problem often and wish people would recognize that recaptcha is a very poor (or overloaded) system...it seems to always be unavailable to those with slower internet connections.

My comments follow.

I am an avid backcountry skier and have skied in the Shoshone. For me, the sound (mostly the quiet) of nature is just as important as the scenery. It is easy in winter to travel away from the sound of business and the highway, but it is not easy to travel away from the sound of snowmobiles. Snowmobile noise travels far and can be incredibly loud and annoying.

Wilderness is generally inaccessible to me due to the distance required to enter Wilderness as well as the generally steeper terrain of Wilderness. Hence, having areas closed to snowmobiles (areas large enough that there is no sound of snowmobiles staging or travelling nearby) is very important to me and others like me. It is sad to me that huge areas like most of Togowotee Pass are thereby unsuitable for my desired form of recreation.

It should not be necessary to state the obvious...that the lack of regulation of snowmobiles is NOT the same as allowing everyone to do their thing. Some uses so conflict with other uses that the other uses are effectively foreclosed. This is very true with snowmobile/skier conflicts. The one use prevents the other...this is a one-way street. Hence regulation -- known commonly as zoning -- is necessary to protect the uses that have the least impact.

Please provide suitably large areas -- easily accessible with roadside access in winter - where skiers can recreate without the noise, exhaust and speed (i.e. danger) of snowmobiles. This is not currently done in the Shoshone to a reasonable extent. The Shoshone has vast areas of land - including land readily accessible in winter with roadside access -- and a reasonable amount of this land should be set aside for skiers who want to recreate in a clean and quiet environment.

Thank you.

Bob Rowen

[PII]