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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Shoshone Travel Management Planning Project

Dear Environmental Coordinator Mark Foster,

I am a backcountry skier and ski most winters around Togowotee Pass and Beartooth Pass.

Enjoying the quiet of nature -- listening to the wind rustle the trees or the soft fall of snow on a calm day, hearing every little sound in the forest -- is just as important to me as the impressive scenery in the Shoshone.

OSVs can be incredibly loud machines. One OSV travelling in an area _ especially a carbureted 2-stroke OSV -- thus ruins the experience for me and anyone like me within miles of the OSV -- less distance in a heavily wooded area, but a greater distance on open slopes, especially on the bluebird calm days that one enjoys most.

This may not be a reason to ban OSVs, but it IS a reason for the Forest Service to ensure that a fair balance of readily-accessible lands in winter are set aside for quiet recreation only. It is fact that OSV use disturbs other users seeking quiet, but quiet use disturbs no one else. Forest Service action is needed to ensure that ALL users have ready access to the type of conditions they seek.

The Shoshone preliminary assessment does not do this. It does not create a fair balance of open (noisy) and closed (quiet) lands. Please ensure that there is a fair balance of readily accessible winter recreation lands that are closed to OSVs. In my opinion, users should be allowed to OSV, but users should also be allowed to recreate in areas where they are assured of quiet.

It is obvious that OSVs can travel large distances but skiers cannot. Thus. a fair balance requires closing more lands that are readily accessible..i.e. near roads or winter trailheads. This is not about finding "solitude" It is about being able to recreate in areas free from motorized noise. In general, winter highways through the Shoshone are very quiet. In most areas, one can readily escape the noise of cars and trucks on the highway, but one cannot escape the noise of OSVs without Forest Service zoning.

In addition to returning to the drawing board and write an Environmental Impact Statement so that the Forest Service truly considers all of the significant issues raised at scoping, the final plan should include the following elements:

*End the OSV season on the Clarks Fork ranger district no later than May 15 and match the season on the Wind River district to that of the Bridger-Teton's Blackrock district (Dec 1-April 30)

*Designate OSV use in the High Lakes WSA as described in Alternative 3

*Do not designate the area around the Deception and Palisades ski trails for OSV use

*Include an implementation plan to ensure compliance with the Travel Plan and reduce use conflicts.

Sincerely,

Robert Rowen

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