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Title:

Comments: Make a better plan to keep Shoshone National Forest wild

Dear Shoshone National Forest Supervisor Lisa Timchak,

noise. we are surrounded by noise, it affects our health and the health of every living thing. Not hearing it sounds like a blessing and it is until you need to hear that rumbling vehicle coming towards you! I am hearing Impaired, and an active outdoors person. I both hike and trail ride (a horse). I have been caught unawares by vehicles in other National Forests while doing both. most of the drivers are irate. I guess they are yelling "Didn't you hear me?" The answer is no. My horse always has and has been injured when frightened off the trail, I know full well that the USFS cannot control the public's verbal responses but you can control the excess noise and air pollution from vehicles. What about the smell of exhaust? It is offensive when there are so few places left with clean air. The noise must be polluting as well. This affects wildlife as well. repeated clamoring sounds will drive them away and they have so few places where they are welcome. I grew up in a forest environment, the natural sounds are a treasured memory, the quiet was treasured even now. Vehicles are noise producing machines, air pollution machines, dangerous by their speed and destructive traveling across the forest floor. Dangerous to the hikers who can't hear them. We count too. the wildlife counts too. Quiet is a commodity that all seek who enjoy the outdoors, there is too much noise in this world. There isn't any need to add to it. Quiet is a key feature to be treasured. especially by those who relish experiencing the wild only with their eyes.

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,

Christine Meleg

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