

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/16/2020 12:00:00 PM

First name: Dahlia

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

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

Dear Shoshone National Forest Supervisor Lisa Timchak,

Hi, my name is Dahlia, and I hope this email finds you well.

I live in the city. I have for five years, and in these absurdly stressful times all I can find myself thinking about is nature. I play video games, watch documentaries, anything that makes me feel like I can see the grass blades blowing in the wind or ride through a quiet forest on horseback through misty hills. Of course I'm not in Yosemite or Shoshone National Forest.

Im surrounded by concrete and cars. That is why it is of the utmost importance to me and many others that national parks across the national create measures and act on thoughtful management of the parks to preserve them for recreators like myself, future generations, animals, researchers, and so many more! We rely on you and the teams that manage these parks to do what's best for all those seeking them as an oasis. I know that that's a big job trying to balance all those needs. Maybe there are future park rangers or environmental students you can hire to help with the task. I think that reaching out for public opinion is a great way to start!

When all this is over, you can bet that I will be there as a quiet recreator, hiking and stopping to take in all the beautiful wildlife.

Thank you for your time. :)

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,

Dahlia Serrato

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