Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/16/2020 12:00:00 PM
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Make a better plan to keep Shoshone National Forest wild

Dear Shoshone National Forest Supervisor Lisa Timchak,

We make an effort each year to visit our national forests, parks and other recreational lands held in by the public. Motorized recreation is the very last thing we want to encounter. Living near and working in large cities is motorized enough; all of us need to breathe deeply in the silence generated in a natural landscape wisely managed as habitat (and environmental carbon sink!) for wildlife and human visitation.

Non-motorized vehicles/sports also have their impact, and their usage must also be managed carefully.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on this issue. Keep National Forests healthy and wild.

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,

Janis Swalwell

[PII]