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Comments: Shoshone NF Travel Management Planning Project

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Mr. Mark Foster (Environmental Coordinator)

808 Meadow Lane Avenue

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Dear Mr. Foster (Environmental Coordinator),

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Shoshone National

Forest's Travel Management Plan. As people get out of their houses

during Covid and move into our Nat'l Forests for time with nature, many

are unaware or irresponsible about how to treat these precious

environments. Many are careless with their campfires, their use of the

land and are causing erosion, fires and other detrimental effects.

Please do a deeper analysis with an Environmental Impact Statement

(EIS). The EIS would help the forest evaluate the intensity of use on

each route, providing a clear picture of the potential impacts that

would need to be minimized throughout the forest. Clear justification

of designations will help the public comply and provide a better path

forward for future maintenance and enforcement.

Please ensure the plan includes seasonal restrictions based on science.

It should aim to minimize soil erosion, the degradation of water

quality, the spread noxious weeds, fire risk, and/or harassment of

wildlife.

It should also ensure grizzly bears are protected from potential

conflicts with motorized use when grizzlies leave their dens. Road density is the number one indicator of increased bear mortality, which means the forest must carefully evaluate road use, especially in spring.

As the nation's first national forest, the Shoshone provides critical habitat for rare plants and 335 species of wildlife, including elk, deer, and pronghorn. I'd like to see a plan that embraces wildlife migration paths and avoids fragmenting and displacing wildlife, such as elk who display a pattern of avoidance to ORV use.

As more and more people with various recreation preferences access public lands, we should ensure the forest has the bandwidth, staff and funding, to carefully implement, maintain, and monitor its designated motorized system so that we don't abuse the forest to death with poor management.

I am excited the Shoshone National Forest is updating its designated open motorized route system to align with the Travel Management Rule. Proper analysis and efforts to minimize negative impacts to resources, wildlife, and conflicts with different use is required; an EIS is needed.

The TMP will be an important tool to guide decades of sustainable forest management. Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Ms. Karen Shanley

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