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Title:

Comments: I wish to comment on the Shoshone National Forest Travel Management plan that is under consideration currently. I am now almost 79 years old and blind as a bat, but in the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s, I spent many days in the Wind River Mountains. Either solo or with friends or with family, I went on at least a dozen backpacking trips and some have been up to 12 days in length. In addition to many day long hikes. I considered the mountains, the forest, the lakes, and streams a place of refuge to get away from the madness of the larger society, moreover I recognize that those same places are one of the last refuges of wild creatures that provide me and other humans so much enjoyment. I hope the Forest Service can recognize the imperative that rest on their shoulders to make sure these lands are passed on to the future with out degradation. That is exactly why I am writing. I am greatly concerned with and adamantly opposed to the introduction of off-road vehicle trails into the roadless areas of the National Forest. This would be a concrete step in the degradation of the landscape and enjoyment that it provides to many people, not to mention it's negative effects on wildlife. I can't see how the Forest Service can consider itself to be a steward of these mountains if it is guilty of causing their eventual destruction. It should be only the purview of the United States Congress to open these areas. Please don't make this essentially irreversible mistake. Additional unacceptable negative impacts of your plan is the fact that the proposed routes will cross a potential wild and scenic River, thereby compromising its future addition to the system. In addition it will negatively impact wildlife adjacent to the Fitzpatrick Wilderness. So here even if the roads don't directly go into the wilderness, you are causing degradation to the wilderness by bringing RVs nearly into the Wilderness itself. That is not good stewardship. I see no evidence in this plan of a value system for preserving the landscape and the ecosystems of this area, but rather a rush to do the same thing with these lands that our society is done with everything else. Convert them into playgrounds for motor vehicles. I know you are well aware of the profound negative affects of RVs on the landscape including trail erosion, introduction of exotic species, disturbance of wildlife, the introduction of dust into the air to cause premature melting of snow pack and the impact of noise and pollution on quiet recreation enjoyment. It is as if management here is oblivious of the 21st-century and it's growing problems. The last thing in the world the Forest Service should be pushing is expansion of motorized travel when wild landscape is in shorter and shorter supply, and vehicle pollution is also causing global climate change. ?I have the following specific comments in addition. The Forest Service must honor public comments and use its limited resources to enforce, maintain and improve the Shoshone's existing roads and trails - NOT add new ones. I Oppose the multiple new motorized trails, route construction and motorized loops proposed on the Wind River District. Adding more motorized trails to the District that already has the largest motorized trail system and the greatest enforcement and maintenance needs does not meet user demand or public comment concerns. Specifically I oppose these two new OHV routes/loop additions: 1. the Warm Springs Canyon additions (WR07,WR13). 2. Benchmark Roadless Area MT14 additions (WR03, WR90, WR11,WR78). These new route proposals would have significant and cumulative impacts to Inventoried Roadless Areas, Wild and Scenic eligible Rivers, unique geologic areas, and existing non-motorized recreation. The Forest Service must mitigate increasing snowmobile use in the High Lakes WSA and comply with the Wyoming Wilderness Act through winter travel planning. I request that the Forest-wide snoPlease fill your own comments here!