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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My wife and I own property that borders the Shoshone. We are avid users of the forest, spending time in the woods on most days that we are in the area. The wild nature of the Shoshone is what attracted us to the area specifically, as we have been spending time in the backcountry of Wyoming since the mid-nineties. I'm writing to express my concern with the possibly expansion of new motorized trails, route construction and motorized loops in the Wind River District. The Forest Service had enough challenges maintaining current roads and enforcing appropriate uses without the expansion of the current system. More trails to the District that already has the greatest maintenance and enforcement needs will not serve users or support what public comments have requested. On a recent walk with friends in September, we visited some of the old remaining sheep traps that the Sheepeaters used to capture big horn. The remains of the traps are still clearly visible today despite being many, many decades since they were built. While they are an interesting cultural artifact, they are also a reminder of the delicate nature of Shoshone. The imprint of man lasts a very long time in this ecosystem. We cannot afford to make mistakes in the management of the forest with this planning process. It is not as simple as thinking that if mistakes are made then adjustments can be made in the future to reign in improper usage. It will be too late. Damage done from increased usage will last far longer than any of us who are responsible for the forest will be around to see. Use can always be expanded in the future. But damage done by increased motor use will outlive us all. Specifically, my wife and I oppose the addition of the Warm Springs Canyon routes (WR07, WR13) and the Benchmark Roadless Area MT14 routes (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.