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Organization:

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Comments: For work, I plan travel experiences for people to connect with nature, learn about wildlife and learn about our systems of governing and managing public lands. I'm writing you today to urge you to keep limits on motorized use in the Shoshone National Forest. I've seen how stressed our wildlife is, and adding a startling loud and fast vehicles into these places during cub season is a recipe for more bear & human encounters and conflict. Neighboring areas of Yellowstone National park and areas around Gallatin County, where I live, are seeing an increase in bear conflict from the increased traffic. I imagine this kind of traffic will only increase over time in Shoshone as well, especially with Wind River booming in popularity. Please: -Reduce Snowmobile use in the High Lakes Wilderness Study Area to comply with the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act - End snowmobile season on April 30. Do not extend the period. This will minimize springtime conflict between motorized use and wildlife, as well as among motorized users and non-motorized over-snow users on Beartooth Pass. Let's keep the area quieter and safer for all! - Do not add new motorized routes and trail miles in Inventoried Roadless Areas, sensitive wildlife habitat, adjacent to the Fitzpatrick Wilderness, or across eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers! - Do not designate the historic ski trail on Sublette Pass as an ungroomed snowmobile trail. This exacerbates rather than minimizes conflict between motorized and non-motorized uses. - Set aside small areas for backcountry skiing/riding on Togwotee Pass: Breccia Area and West/East Angle Area. Or leave wild. Do not designate for motorized use please! - Address enforcement, maintenance, signage and education specifically in the new plan. - Give ample time for public process and environmental analysis. I know it takes a long time, but this process is an important part of our democracy. - Though I encourage you to keep recreational snowmobiling and motorized use to a minimum, I do support official motorized closures for cross-country skiing in the Falls/Deception and Pinnacles areas on the Wind River Ranger District.