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Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Travel Planning on the Shoshone National Forest. I've been enjoying winter recreation in the Greater Yellowstone region since 1986. I am a self-powered recreationist who like to earn my turns. Snowmobile o me are transportation, not recreation. High powered machines should be limited to a few groomed trails and roads, not allowed free rein since they have a high impact on the winter landscape. Snowmobiles have become extremely fast and maneuverable. Riders are going into areas that were once the domain of extreme skiers and wolverines. They are dropping off cornices and going down steep chutes. They are hucking cliffs and riding through steep trees. And with the advent of snow bikes or 'timber sleds' these riders can go nearly anywhere. In the 1990s I worked on a project to document snowmobile trespass into wilderness and other closed areas. We found that snowmobiler trespass was pretty common in places like the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, Gospel Hump Wilderness and the backcountry of Yellowstone Park. No doubt it has gotten even more common with so many riders, more nimble machines and minimal or no enforcement by the Forest Service. All these machines going everywhere means more competition for a valuable resource - untracked snow. This is what backcountry skiers and snowboarders work so hard for and often compete with one another for first tracks. People on machines are going to get there first, pushing skiers into other areas or ruining their experience altogether. Check this video and others to see what timber sled riders are doing and how they boast about getting to fresh snow before anyone else.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1c6W8xbF\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1c6W8xbF_s) All this riding and skiing everywhere also means that any wildlife still hanging on in those remote areas will be pressed for space and pushed into yet more remote habitat. Canada lynx, wolverines, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, even hibernating grizzly bears can all be stressed and even driven out of an area by recreation pressure. In Grand Teton National Park, managers are considering closing parts of the park to backcountry skiing to protect the wintering bighorn sheep. I have skied Beartooth Pass several times in the spring. Please close the snowmobile season there on April 30 instead of the proposed June 15 to eliminate the conflict between skiers and snowmobilers and minimize impacts to wildlife and landscape in the spring. There is plenty of access to good skiing from Beartooth Pass without needing a snowmobile. In addition, last spring's opening weekend at Beartooth Pass was a massive s..tshow with hundreds of vehicles and masses of skiers and riders. There were so many rigs people were driving out into the tundra to park. People were kite skiing and snowmobiling all over the place. Clearly some limits to use are needed as well as enforcement. The High Lakes Wilderness Study Area should be managed as a possible future wilderness to protect its future potential and allow people and wildlife a serene place to go. The Wyoming Wilderness Act should be adhered to and snowmobile use in High Lakes should be reduced rather than increased as proposed. Overall I am extremely concerned about the Shoshone proposing to add new motorized routes. Motorized recreation has an oversized impact on the land and should be limited wherever possible. Please do not add any new motorized routes especially near the Fitzpatrick Wilderness, across Wild and Scenic rivers and in Inventoried Roadless Areas. Please provide some nonmotorized areas for backcountry and nordic skiing along Togwotee Pass as well as in the Falls/Deception area and Pinnacles area of the Wind River Ranger District. The travel plan means little without signage, enforcement, maintenance and education. Stealing of signs from public land has become an epidemic problem across the country. So has abuse of public land as the Pandemic has pushed so many people out onto the land.