

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/17/2021 11:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Gene Hardin. I am a backcountry skier, backpacker, canoer, kayaker and hunter. I am commenting on the Shoshone National Forest travel management planning project because I have concerns with several issues as follows; I am disappointed that the Shoshone chose to minimize the environmental analysis and allow only a 30-day comment period. Travel Management Planning is a very complex task that many forests have taken over a year to complete while allowing extended comment periods. Such a short comment period disregards the importance of meaningful public comment. I believe the Forest Service is short-cutting this process as they have already decided what to do. I believe there should be official motorized closures for x-c skiing in many areas on the forest but especially the Falls/Deception and Pinnacles areas on the Wind River Ranger District. I also favor continued non-motorized use of these as well as other areas. To allow motorized use on x-c ski trails is not consistent with these trails. no x-c skier wants to be bothered by the noise of motorized use in x-c ski areas. I am very much opposed to increased snowmobile use in the High Lake Wilderness Study Area that is proposed. Snowmobile use should be reduced in order to comply with the 1984 Wyoming Wilderness Act. Your region should follow the lead of Region One of the Forest Service by not allowing motorized vehicle use in Wilderness Study Areas. As you know or should know allowing such use only makes it harder to designate the Wilderness Study Areas as Wilderness. Springtime conflict between non-motorized and motorized over-snow use on Beartooth Pass must be minimized by ending the snowmobile season on April 30. Extending it to June 15 only causes more conflict and should not be done. With global warming and less snow each year It is getting more difficult to ski on Beartooth Pass in the spring. Snowmobiles have the area all winter to use. I believe it is more important now than ever that education, maintenance, signage and especially enforcement are addressed in the plan. This is especially true with the increased anti-government attitude taking over in many of the motorized groups. New motorized routes and trails must not be added in inventoried Roadless Areas, adjacent to the Fitzpatrick Wilderness, across eligible Wild and Senic Rivers and sensitive wildlife habitat. Doing so only increases conflicts which the Forest Service has little ability to address. In my mind designating the ski trail on Sublette Pass as an ungroomed snowmobile trail only increases conflict between motorized users and skiers. I am at a loss as to why the FS would do such a thing. I strongly support designating small areas not designated for motorized use such as Breccia Area and West/East Angle Area for backcountry skiing and riding. Areas such as these are important to backcountry non-motorized users. I am sure there are more of these types of areas that should be open only to non-motorized users. Adding such areas would help reduce crowding at other popular areas. Thank You for accepting my comments