

Thomas Tidwell, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service  
Attn: EMC - Administrative Reviews  
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Mailstop 1104  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Tidwell:

The following are my comments on the newly released Shoshone National Forest Management Plan in Wyoming. I submitted comments on the first draft comment period and want to express my disappointment at some of the points that have been made in the preliminary plan.

First point of disappointment:

- The plan changes about 40,000 acres in the Horse Creek, Wiggins Fork, Bear Creek, and East Fork drainages from backcountry non-motorized to summer and winter motorize.
- These 40,000 acres include elk calving grounds, secure grizzly bear habitat, critical lynx habitat, and crucial winter range for bighorn sheep.

How to improve this: problem: Keep area in Horse Creek, Wiggins Fork, Bear Creek and East Fork drainages as year round non-motorized back country recreation.

Second point of disappointment:

- About 50 acres of forest in the Lean-to Creek drainage (flowing into the East Fork of the Wind River) is being changed from back-country non-motorized to a managed timber lands designation.
- There has not been any motorized use of this area for over 60 years. Right next to the Washakie Wilderness, the area's value as secure bear habitat is obvious by abundant bear sign everywhere.

Solution: Keep Lean-to Creek as year round non-motorized back country recreation.

Third point of disappointment:

- In spite of outstanding wilderness characteristics by the Forest Service's own analysis, large parts of Wood Creek and Franc Peak have been opened to winter motorized use.
- In spite of numerous assurances from Supervisor Alexander that these areas will continue to be managed to preserve their wilderness character, we will now have snowmobiles to disrupt wildlife and destroy any possibility for peaceful quiet solitary winter experience in these areas.
- Approximately 22,000 of the total 23,000 public comments requested that these areas be recommended for wilderness designation. Ninety six percent of people who care enough about the management of this forest to write a comment do not approve of expanded vehicle use in these areas at any time of the year.

Resolution: Keep all of Wood River and Francs Peak as year round non-motorized back country recreation.

Fourth dissapointment:

- The Forest Service wants to allow a mountain bike trail in the Dunoir SMU. When Congress created the Dunoir SMU, the legislation stated that the area was for non-vehicular recreation. It did not say non-motorized. Mountain bicycles are vehicles, are illegal in the Dunoir, and must be prohibited.
- About 96% (22,000 of 23,000) comment letters from the public requested that the Forest Service recommend that the Dunoir SMU be recommended for wilderness. The public does not support mechanized uses in the Dunoir.  
How to fix it Do not allow mountain biking in the Dunoir Special Management Unit.

Please help give wise counsel to the decision makers in this process. Let's keep the Shoshone wild and keep the extended Yellowstone system one of the best preserved pieces of land in the lower 48.

Thank you for considering my objections,

Martha Martinez del Rio  
2430 Douglas Drive  
Laramie, WY 82070