



March 24, 2014

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

Submitted electronically at: objections-chief@fs.fed.us

Objector:

Connie Wilbert
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Subject: Shoshone National Forest Land Management Plan, 2014 Revision

Responsible official: Daniel Jiron, Rocky Mountain Regional Forester

Dear Chief Tidwell;

On behalf of our members, Sierra Club appreciates the opportunity to submit this additional objection to the Land Management Plan 2014 Revision and Draft Record of Decision for the Shoshone National Forest. Our members in Wyoming and throughout the United States, who regularly use the Shoshone National Forest in numerous ways, are keenly interested in the management of this forest. We have participated in the plan revision process since 2005, and have submitted substantive comments at every opportunity up to and including the 2012 draft plan and EIS.

The issue we raise in this objection is in addition to other issues raised in two other objection letters on which we also participated, and we respectfully ask for your consideration of this additional objection to the revised Land Management Plan.

Specifically, with this letter we object to numerous snowmobile exception areas in crucial winter range in the final plan, as depicted on Map 72. We especially object to the snowmobile exception areas in and near the Telephone Draw wilderness evaluation area between Bear Creek and Wiggins Fork in the Wind River District, and along the Lander Front in the Washakie District. Allowing snowmobile use in these areas of crucial winter range will increase stress to wintering wildlife, forcing vulnerable animals into suboptimal habitat, directly increasing winter mortality, and likely decreasing spring birth rates.

We specifically commented on the importance of protecting crucial winter range numerous times (see Sierra Club, scoping comments, Nov. 2010 p. 4; Sierra Club, comments on proposed action, Feb. 2012 p. 3; Sierra Club, comments on DEIS and Draft Plan, Nov. 2012 pp. 4-5, 8). We are dismayed to see the large amount of crucial winter range open to snowmobiling, especially considering the Forest Service's own repeated statements, in public meetings and in written documents, that the final plan keeps crucial winter range off limits to winter motorized recreation. Map 72 clearly shows this not to be the case.

To resolved this objection, we ask that the Forest Service reclassify crucial winter range in and near Telephone Draw wilderness evaluation area and along the Lander Front as Management Area 1.3: Back country year-round non-motorized.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this additional objection to the final plan, and we look forward to a successful resolution.

Sincerely,



Connie Wilbert