

Formal Objection to 2014 Revision Decision

Shoshone National Forest Land Management Plan

By Keith Becker, 1451 Owl Creek Road, Thermopolis, WY 82443,

Telephone (307-867-2350)

March 12, 2014

I am Keith Becker, a resident of Hot Springs County, Wyoming. My objection is a very specific and concrete one. I have commented previously on the Forest Planning Document. My objection relates to the Dunoir Special Management Unit, a designation with which I have a long history.

Let me put that in context. As a Viet Nam era Navy pilot, I was appalled at the absence of wildlands and wildlife that I observed in Asia. I made up my mind to return and try to do better by my kids. At the time of my grandfather's birth, the world had not seen one billion people, at my birth two billion people, now we are at seven billion. In those intervening years, our leading scientists inform that we have lost one half of the productive capacity of the earth's land base and equal or greater loss within our oceans. Growing populations and the destruction of the delicate balance in our atmosphere, they inform, has us on the verge of the sixth great extinction on our four billion old planet, one which may well include us.

It is from that vantage point that we must consider enlightened management of the Dunoir Special Management Unit. The responsibility of the Forest Service extends well beyond simply allocating usage, it has a fiduciary responsibility to maintain for us and our progeny, an enduring wilderness resource. The Wilderness Act and the Wyoming Wilderness Act of 1984 are quite specific as to the requirements of such enlightened management. Nothing in the Dunoir Special Management Unit act prescribes less restrictive management prior to it becoming a part of the Wilderness System. Those prescriptions allow for no mechanized travel or "any form of mechanical transport" within lands so managed, except for specific grandfathered exclusions.

Mechanized travel shrinks wilderness and allows a user to impact wildland and wildlife by an order of magnitude. Those activities, no matter how enjoyable, including snowmachines and bicycles, compromise the purpose of wilderness and are prohibited. Other uses such as watershed and ecosystem protection are much more critical.

To bring forth a proposal allowing mountain biking in the area, whether "red herring" or "Trojan horse" at this stage in the process is disingenuous and regrettable. It amounts to a significant reversal of policy, breaks faith with those who commented on the original plan proposal and will lead to confrontation. That is a poor way to utilize the resources of the agency and the public.

The fact that we have in our region much of what remains of the planet's intact temperate zone ecosystem is no justification for allocating some of it to nonconforming uses. Thoreau

was prescient in stating that, "In wildland is the preservation of the world." May he be vindicated by enlightened agency management.

The provision to allow mountain biking or any form of "mechanical transport", in the Dunoir Special Management Unit must be reconsidered and withdrawn from the plan.

Thank you.

Submitted by: Keith Becker, 1451 Owl Creek Rd, Thermopolis, WY 82443

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith V Becker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Keith V Becker

Responsible Official: Daniel J Jiron, Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, 740 Simms Street, Golden, CO 80401

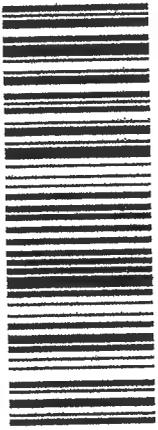
Reviewing Official: Thomas Tidwell, Chief, USDA Forest Service, Attn: EMC-Administrative Reviews, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250-1104

Please include the full text of this document in the formal hearing record for the Shoshone National Forest Revised Land Management Plan. Thank You

CERTIFIED MAIL™



Mr. Keith Becker
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Thermopolis, WY 82443



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