



WYOMING
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Jim Gerfinger, Governor



John Baughman, Director

COPY

Gary Fralick
Joe Bohre
Steve Kilpatrick

November 4, 1996

WER 8303
Bridger-Teton National Forest
Greys River Ranger District
Environmental Assessment
Salt River Watershed Winter Travel Plan
Analysis/Star Front Winter Travel Plan
SIN: 96-114
Lincoln County

WYOMING STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
OFFICE OF FEDERAL LAND POLICY
ATTN: JULIE HAMILTON
HERSCHLER BUILDING., 3W
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

The staff of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has reviewed the environmental assessment for the Salt River watershed winter travel plan on the Greys River Ranger District. We offer the following comments.

1. Previous Comments. The Wyoming Game & Fish Department provided extensive comments to the Greys River Ranger District during scoping in a letter dated May 23, 1996. Those comments are still relevant.
2. Alternatives. We encourage adoption and implementation of the proposed alternative to close some crucial winter range to winter travel, provide corridors, keep some crucial winter range open, close Salt Pass ski trails to snowmobiles, designate Phillips Canyon as a permanent hill climb site, provide additional snowmobile parking, provide a restroom, authorize no permits for commercial snowmobile tours and designate Big Ridge and Willow Creek as snowmobile trails.
3. Mitigation. We recommend all of Item "C. Mitigation Measures Required for Proposal." outlined in the Environmental Assessment be implemented as a precondition of the annual Maverik Hill Climb and winter travel plan for the Salt River Watershed.

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4. Interagency Coordination. We encourage the Forest Service to negotiate an agreement with the Kemmerer Office of the Bureau of Land Management to include those parcels of Bureau land located in the Salt River watershed in the winter travel plan.
5. Big Game Data. The annual big game survey data presented in the environmental assessment are incorrect. Approximately 800 mule deer, 700 elk and 75 moose were documented in the Wyoming portion of the Salt River watershed in 1996.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



BILL WICHERS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

BW:TC:as

cc: Wildlife Division
USFWS