

Appendix A – Public Involvement

Initial Scoping

These individuals, groups, private landowners, businesses, Native American Tribes, and government agencies were mailed the December 21, 2001 scoping letter. Shading indicates a response to scoping.

<u>Alliance for Wild Rockies</u>	Greater Yellowstone	Northern Cheyenne Tribal	State of Wyoming Forestry
<u>American Wildlands</u>	Coalition – Scott Groen	Council – Audelene White	District Office State
Billings Gazette	<u>Greater Yellowstone</u>	Wolf	Representative Budd Betts
<u>Bob Hitchcock</u>	Coalition – Tim Stevens	Pinedale Ranger District	Tappen Creek Ranch
Brooks Lake Trading	Haman Wise, Sr.	Ralph Maughan	<u>US Fish and Wildlife Service</u>
Company – Will Rigsby	Jackson Hole Alliance for	Riverton Ranger	US Representative Barbara
Buffalo Ranger District	Responsible Planning	Robert Hoskins	Cubin
Crow Nation, Culture	Jackson Ranger District	Shoshone Tribal Council,	<u>US Senator Craig Thomas</u>
Director – John Pretty On	Jim Buline	Cultural Director – Starr	<u>US Senator Michael Enzi</u>
Top	John Hill	Weed	Whiskey Mountain
Crow Tribal Council	Joint Business Council	Shoshone-Bannock Tribal	Conservation Camp
Diamond D Cattle Co.	Kenneth Barrick	Council	<u>WY Game and Fish</u>
Dubois Frontier	Lander Journal	Shoshone-Bannock Tribal	Wyoming Heritage
Dubois Library	Medicine Wheel Coalition –	Council, Culture Director –	Foundation – Jolene Smith
Dubois Outfitter Association	Steven Brady	James Osborne	<u>Wyoming Outdoor Council</u>
<u>Dubois Wildlife Association</u>	Medicine Wheel Coalition for	<u>Shoshone-Bannock Tribes,</u>	Wyoming State
Eastern Shoshone Business	Sacred Sites in North	Cultural Resources Office,	Clearinghouse
Council	America – Francis Brown	<u>Diana Yupe</u>	Wyoming Tribune Eagle –
<u>Ed Patterson</u>	<u>Meredith Taylor</u>	Sierra Club, Northern Plains	Carol Cloudwalker
Erin Quinn	National Outdoor Leadership	Office	Wyoming Wildlife Federation
<u>Fremont County</u>	School Northern Arapaho	State of Wyoming –	– Dan Chu
<u>Commissioners</u>	Tribal Council	Honorable Jim Geringer,	Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Gari Epp	Northern Cheyenne Tribal	Governor	– Harold Schultz
	Council		

Secondary Scoping

These individuals, groups, private landowners, businesses, Native American Tribes, and government agencies were mailed a scoping letter on March 21, 2002. Shading indicates a response to scoping.

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe,	Colville Confederated Tribes	Historic Preservation	Northern Cheyenne Cultural
Cultural Committee –	– Bill Timentwa	Consultant – Haman Wise	Comm.
Raymond Usesknife	Confederated Tribes of	Nez Perce National Historic	Northern Cheyenne Cultural
<u>Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe,</u>	Umatilla Res., Cultural	Trails – Charlie Moses, Jr.	Director, Abraham Spotted
<u>Preservation Officer – Bronco</u>	Program Mgr. – Jeff Van Pelt	Nez Perce Tribal Council	Elk, Sr.
<u>Lebeau</u>	Crow Tribe – John Hill	Nez Perce Tribe, Tribal	Northern Cheyenne Tribe –
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe,	Cultural Resource Program	Historian – Alan Slickpoo	Mark Wandering Medicine
Tribal Chairman – Greg	Director – Vera Sonneck	Northern Arapahoe Business	
Bourland		Council	

Public Field Trip

These individuals, groups, private landowners, businesses, Native American Tribes, and government agencies attended the public field trip on September 14, 2002. Shading indicates a response.

Amos Stamper	Dubois-Crowheart	June Sampson	<u>People for Wyoming –</u>
Barb and Rick Bestul	Conservation District - Gayle	Ken Neal	<u>Dorothy Batholomew</u>
Bill Weaver	Hinschberger	Larry W. Wilke	Robert Hoskins
Buck Butkovich	<u>Dustin Ralston</u>	Linda and Leonard Serdiuk	Sheri Howe
Carl Dupree	Fremont County	<u>Monte Baker</u>	<u>Stan Blakeman</u>
<u>Dave Damveld</u>	Commissioner Crosby Allen	Orv Landen	Stone Baker
<u>Don Mason</u>	H.R. Albright	Pam Buline	<u>Tory & Meredith Taylor</u>
Donna Henne-Lalvert	Jesse and Kelly Hankins	Pat Moore	<u>Wind River Backcountry</u>
	Joe Bell		<u>Horsemen – Al Sammons</u>

Additional Commentors

The following individuals, groups, private landowners, businesses, Native American Tribes, and government agencies also provided comments.

<u>Anonymous</u>	<u>Dale and</u>	<u>Hugh</u>	<u>John and Judy</u>	<u>Rod Bowers</u>	<u>Ted Knowles</u>
<u>Bill Weaver</u>	<u>Dianne Sackett</u>	<u>Livingston</u>	<u>Gillette</u>	<u>Ryan</u>	<u>Wyoming DEQ</u>
<u>Bob Baker –</u>	<u>Glen Laidlaw</u>	<u>Jean Damveld</u>	<u>John Gordon</u>	<u>Poffenberger</u>	<u>WY SHPO</u>
<u>Dubois Mayor</u>	<u>Gwyn Jones</u>	<u>Jeffrey Milton</u>	<u>John Suda</u>	<u>T Cross Ranch</u>	<u>Wyoming</u>
<u>Bob Buck</u>	<u>Henry Faulkner</u>	<u>Jerry Marohl</u>	<u>Nathan</u>	<u>– Richard</u>	<u>OFLP</u>
<u>Clem Borowski</u>		<u>Jim Herb</u>	<u>Faulkner</u>	<u>McGinity</u>	

Appendix B – Scoping Comment Summary

Within this appendix we present a summary of the scoping comments that we received and considered in the development of the Horse Creek Watershed Improvement Project EA. Comments are identified by commenter. ID team members paraphrased the comments. The objective was to capture the main intent of the comment. Comments that were used in describing a particular issue are noted in the issue column. The Type column is one that we used to help us sort the comments. The Disposition column briefly indicates how the comment is addressed in the analysis. How a comment is categorized is not important; our focus is ensuring that the comment is addressed.

Table B- 1. Type Code Descriptions

Type Code	Type	Description
ALT	Alternative Development	Comments that could provide an alternative to the proposed action.
C	Concerns	These comments will be responded to by discussion in the comment disposition, project file, the EA, or in an appendix to the EA.
GS	General Statement	Comments expressing a statements and do not require a response.
OS	Outside Scope	Comments where a decision has already been made or is beyond the scope of the proposed action.
R	Request	Comment requests information or clarification. Does not necessarily indicate an issue or concern. Items requesting specific activities are coded with RA.
RD	Recommend Decision	These comments express a preference for a final decision, or an aspect of the decision. They will not generally be responded to in the analysis, but will be considered by the decision maker. These tend to be more general in nature than those items under RA.
RA	Recommend Other	These comments make recommendation related to specific proposed actions other than the decision.

Table B- 2. Horse Creek Watershed Improvement Comment Summary

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Alliance for the Wild Rockies	L1 C1	The project would move the transportation system in the watershed in a positive direction ecologically.	Transportation System	GS	
Alliance for the Wild Rockies	L1 C2	Supports plans for improving grizzly bear security		RD	
Alliance for the Wild Rockies	L1 C3	Supports plans to improve watershed conditions	Soil & Water Resources	RD	
Alliance for the Wild Rockies	L1 C4	Organization would like to assist SNF in funding proposed activity	Transportation System/Economics	R	
Alliance for the Wild Rockies	L1 C5	Project could impact T&E species		C	See 3.5 and 3.5.1
Alliance for the Wild Rockies	L1 C6	The FS needs to manage unclassified user-created roads	Transportation System	RD	
Alliance for the Wild Rockies	L1 C7	All non-essential roads could be closed and obliterated	Transportation System	RD	
American Wildlands	L6 C1	The existing roads adversely impact wildlife movement other than T&E Species		C	

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
American Wildlands	L6 C2	The existing roads adversely impact migration corridors		C	
American Wildlands	L6 C3	The existing roads may be impacting roadless lands (core wildlife habitat)		C	See 3.8.1 Roadless and Wilderness Areas
American Wildlands	L6 C4	Add the protection of wildlife movement corridors to the goals of this proposal		R	
American Wildlands	L6 C5	Identify any roadless areas and wilderness boundaries in relation to the project area		R	See 3.8.1 Roadless and Wilderness Areas
Anonymous	L38 C1	Keep FSR 504 open to meadow area for off road vehicles.	Transportation System	RD	
Anonymous	L38 C2	Propose an off road conservation stamp and raise money to maintain roads.	Transportation System/Economics	OS	
Anonymous	L38 C3	Focus efforts on eliminating new routes that people are creating, not on closing roads that we have.	Transportation System	RD	
Baker	L40 C1	Roads have little impact on the watershed.	Soil & Water Resources	C	See 03.1, 3.2, , and 3.3
Baker	L40 C2	Fuel loads and catastrophic wildfire threaten the watershed, fisheries, & potable water in communities.	Soil & Water Resources	C	See 3.6
Baker	L40 C3	Should not close roads due to inadequate funding. Explore other means (e.g. timber sales/mineral leases)	Transportation System/Economics	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Baker	L40 C4	People use roads to support families and for recreation.	Recreation and Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Baker	L40 C5	Open additional roads to facilitate fuel reduction. Encourage public participation via increased access.	Transportation System	ALT	See 2.1
Baker	L40 C6	Road closures create anti-federal sentiments.		GS	
Baker, Dubois Mayor	L23 C1	Public must consider proposal when snow covers the project area.		C	See 1.6.4 for Public Field Trip.
Baker, Dubois Mayor	L23 C2	Consider postponing public involvement until a tour of the area can be held in July or August		R	See 1.6.4 for Public Field Trip.
Blakeman	L14 C1	It appears that the project is more endangered species protection than watershed improvement		GS	
Blakeman	L14 C2	Improve condition with well designed waterbars and maintenance.	Watershed & Soil Resources	ALT	See 2.1
Blakeman	L14 C3	The key to improving the watershed concern with the exiting roads is proper maintenance of those roads	Watershed & Soil Resources	ALT	See 2.1

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Blakeman	L14 C4	Watershed concerns are a result of the FS not being able to maintain the roads appropriately	Transportation System/Economics	C	
Blakeman	L14 C5	The existing roads play an important role for the WY G&F Department in managing elk herd populations		C	See comment 4 from Wyoming G&F.
Blakeman	L14 C6	Closing the existing roads will adversely impact recreational opportunities of the elderly	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Blakeman	L14 C7	Closing roads may impact firewood gathers.	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Blakeman	L14 C8	Most of the soil erosion and sedimentation is a result of natural causes; heavy runoff during the spring thaw and cloud bursts; especially in the badlands	Soil & Water Resources	C	
Blakeman	L42 C1	Forest should adopt the no action alternative.		RD	
Blakeman	L42 C2	Locating trailhead near T-cross would create problems.	Recreation and Human Uses	C	See 2.1
Blakeman	L42 C3	Keep existing trailheads; a small amount maintenance would work and would not cause the watershed problems associated with constructing new trailheads.	Soil & Water Resources	RD	See 2.2.1
Blakeman	L42 C4	Decommissioning roads causing more watershed damage than public use.	Soil & Water Resources	GS	
Blakeman	L42 C5	Roads are needed for access (e.g. fire fighting, firewood gathering, access by all recreational users, hunting, and game retrieval).	Recreation and Human Uses	C	
Blakeman	L42 C6	The watershed pollution is natural and closing roads will not solve the problem.	Soil & Water Resources	C	See 3.1
Blakeman	L42 C7	Roads closures concentrate people into smaller areas, which creates more long-term problems.	Recreation and Human Uses	C	
Blakeman	L42 C8	Make efforts to educate the public that these roads are not car roads. Users needed specialized equipment and knowledge on the use of such equipment		GS	
Borowski	L43 C1	Supports the no action alternative.		RD	
Borowski	L43 C2	Roads needed for fire fighting access.		C	See 3.6
Borowski	L43 C3	Erosion problems are not significant.	Soil & Water Resources	C	See3.1

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Bowers	L22 C1	Strongly opposed to closing any and all roads		RD	
Bowers	L22 C2	Restricting public land is wrong		GS	
Buck	L32 C1	Potholes on FDR 210 are a problem.	Transportation System	C	
Buck	L32 C1	Existing roads are a very small contributor of sediment	Soil & Water Resources	C	
Buck	L32 C1	Bear Cover is sufficient		GS	
Buck	L32 C1	The roads indicated for closure are used for hunting and recreation.	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	L34 C1 & 2	Has a survey for Traditional Cultural Properties, as well as historical resources, been conducted? Work with the Shoshone Indian Tribe to identify these sites.		R	The Forest has requested assistance from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to identify and protect Traditional Cultural Properties.
Damreld's	L39 C1	Oppose decommissioning any roads in watershed.	Transportation System	RD	See 2.2.1
Damreld's	L39 C2	Decommissioning would decrease the ability to respond to wildfires.		C	See 3.6
Damreld's	L39 C3	There are no serious pollution problems in the area	Soil & Water Resources	C	
Damreld's	L39 C4	Increase the distance allowed for off road travel for the purposes of game retrieval.	Recreation & Human Uses	OS	
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C1	The DWA supports an update to the current transportation system in Horse Creek watershed		RD	
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C10	All developed and popular undeveloped over-night camping areas should provide bear storage facilities such as bear poles and boxes.		GS	
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C11	DWA does not want to see increase mineral leasing and/or timber sales as a result of the proposed action		OS	
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C2	Concern for impacts to elk migration and calving in the project area		C	See 3.5
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C3	The health of the native Yellowstone Cutthroat should be a priority		GS	
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C4	Off road vehicle (ORV) users that cut new trails should receive citations and fines	Recreation & Human Uses	OS	

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C5	Provide ORV access off of designated trails for the purpose of game retrieval with specific limitations	Recreation & Human Uses	OS	Motorized vehicles can travel 300 feet off of designated routes for game retrieval, fuelwood gathering, etc.
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C6	Law and regulation enforcement should be budgeted into this project	Transportation System/Economics	OS	
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C7 & 8	Trailhead should include a minimum of facilities such as adequate parking, turn-around space, and hitching rails. Corrals & rest rooms should be constructed	Recreation & Human Uses	RD	
Dubois Wildlife Association	L17 C9	Should FDR 507 be obliterated, a new trail head facility should be provided to reach Five Pockets	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	See 2.2.2 and 2.2.3
Faulkner, H.	E3 C1, E6 C2, 4	Expressed concerns about locating a trailhead at the end of FDR 736. This would also have adverse economic impact on the T Cross Ranch and cause erosion on steep slopes.	Recreation & Human Uses Soil & Water Resources	ALT	See 2.1
Faulkner, H.	E6 C1	Overall goals are worthwhile		GS	
Faulkner, H.	E6 C3	T Cross may be entitled to compensation for road maintenance conducted on FDR 736.		OS	
Faulkner, H.	E6 C5	Project goals better achieved by locating trailhead near junction of FDR 736 and 504.		ALT	See 2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3
Faulkner, H.	E6 C6	FDR 507 could be used as a trail rather than a road. y locating trailhead near junction of FDR 736 and 504.		ALT	See 2.2.2
Faulkner, N.	E4 C1	Expressed concerns about locating a trailhead at the end of FDR 736.	Recreation & Human Uses	C	See 2.1
Faulkner, N.	E4 C2	Provide information on how the Forest plans to enforce trail and boundary restrictions	Recreation & Human Uses	R	Enforcement would continue as needed.
Faulkner, N.	E4 C3	Provide numbers regarding accidents between ATV riders and horseback riders and describe measures to ensure safety of all users.	Recreation & Human Uses	R	Exact numbers are not known. See 3.7 and 3.8
Faulkner, N.	E4 C4	Provide any numbers regarding current and projected traffic use.	Recreation & Human Uses	R	Exact numbers are not known. See 3.7 and 3.8
Gillette's	L25 C1	Perhaps there are some roads that are seriously eroded and in need of maintenance, maybe even closure	Soil & Water Resources	GS	
Gillette's	L25 C2	Roads should not be closed; they're not eroding & allow access off the beaten path.	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Gillette's	L25 C3	The FS may not consider these roads and campsites "official," but many people have used these for years.	Recreation & Human Uses	C	
Gillette's	L25 C4	There appears to be no real reason for the closures		C	See 1.4, 1.4.1, and 1.4.2.
Gordon	L12 C1	The Forest Service is unfair in its constant closure of roads for the sake of junk science		GS	
Gordon	L12 C2	Closure of roads will have a negative impact on elderly users who can no longer hike great distances	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Gordon	L12 C3	Use of horses within watershed will cause greater harm than small ATV or snowmobiles		GS	
Gordon	L12 C4	The project will reduce the number of roads that challenge off-road vehicle users	Recreation & Human Uses	C	
Gordon	L12 C5	Reducing the number of roads will cause increased traffic on remaining roads, which will have a greater level of impact on those roads.	Transportation System	C	
Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC)	L20 C1	Base road closure decisions on wildlife and biological priorities by closing roads that provide the most benefit to sensitive wildlife, habitat security and soil stability		RD	
GYC	L20 C10 & 11	Provide road density effects on habitat security and effectiveness. Evaluate an alternative that reduces road densities to 1 mile/mile ² , and with no effect, or a gain on habitat effectiveness and habitat security		R	An existing secure habitat analysis was conducted for the roads analysis. Also, See 3.5 Wildlife and subsections
GYC	L20 C12	Provide a relative effectiveness rating of different road closure methods		R	See 1.4.1
GYC	L20 C13	Include complete road restoration in an alternative		ALT	Treatments are specific to each road in order to best restore that particular segment.
GYC	L20 C14	Analyze wildlife linkage through the project area		R	
GYC	L20 C15	No loss of rare and sensitive plants or the habitat that sustains them		R	
GYC	L20 C16	Provide a noxious weed management and monitoring program		R	
GYC	L20 C17	Conduct a field recon to assess impacts to cultural resources		R	

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
GYC	L20 C2	Provide data to support timber harvest for the purpose of disease control to include level and significance of current disease infestation, acceptable levels of infestation, and a clear need for management.		OS	
GYC	L20 C3	White Bark Pine should be excluded from harvest or removal by any other activity approved by the FS		OS	
GYC	L20 C4	Analyze effects that timber harvest and created openings will have on the rare and T&E species		OS	
GYC	L20 C5	Conduct a thorough cumulative analysis as part of the NEPA review		R	See 3.11, 3.11.1, and 3.11.2
GYC	L20 C6	Analysis of the impacts to fisheries including considerations of sedimentation, channel stability, and increases in stream temperature	Soil & Water Resources	R	See 3.1
GYC	L20 C7	Disclose current fisheries conditions including spawning and pool habitat, and the anticipated effects.		R	See 3.1
GYC	L20 C8	Analyze effects on T&E species and MIS		R	See 3.5.1, 3.5.2, and 3.5.3
GYC	L20 C9	Provide road densities before and after actions within each alternative		R	An existing secure habitat analysis was conducted for the roads analysis. Also, See 3.5 Wildlife and subsections
Herb	L44 C1	Supports the no action alternative.		RD	
Herb	L44 C2	Out of state hunting license fees are excessive.		OS	The Forest Service is not responsible for license fees.
Hitchcock	E7 C1	ATV use is very high, the white-arrow program is in neglect, and new trails are being constructed	Recreation & Human Uses	C	
Hitchcock	E7 C2	Motorized traffic has effects on wildlife habitat		C	
Hitchcock	E7 C3	The portion of FDR 512 that is proposed for a motorized trail should be closed to all motorized use.		ALT	See 2.1
Hitchcock	E7 C4	Reconsider moving the trailhead to the end of FDR 736.		ALT	See 2.1
Hitchcock	L15 C1	Existing area supports recovery of large elk herd		GS	
Hitchcock	L15 C10	Past management in the area has been controversial.		GS	
Hitchcock	L15 C11	NEPA requires EA or EIS based on controversy		R	See 1.8 Decision To Be Made

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Hitchcock	L15 C2	Existing area supports recovery of grizzly bear		GS	
Hitchcock	L15 C3	Existing area supports recovery of re-introduced wolves		GS	
Hitchcock	L15 C4	ATV use is very high and new ORV trails are cut each year.	Recreation & Human Uses	C	See 1.1.1
Hitchcock	L15 C5	Habitat effectiveness is severely compromised within ¾ mile of any road traveled twice in one month; therefore, identify this area as additional impact area		R	ID team disagreed with stated ¾ mile distance. An existing secure habitat analysis was conducted for the roads analysis (Shoshone NF, 2000b). See 3.5.
Hitchcock	L15 C6	Consider decommissioning Brent Creek and Spring Mountain Roads	Transportation System	R	The roads analysis identified these routes as necessary for current and future resource management needs.
Hitchcock	L15 C7	True reclamation requires the application of landscape architecture; recontouring, tree planting, transplantation of shrubs		C	Decommissioning shall include methods to prohibit motorized use, restore natural drainage patterns, remove fills, revegetate the prism, placement of course woody debris, and recontouring of slopes where applicable.
Hitchcock	L15 C8	Some of the roads in the area were closed as part of the legal settlement of Brent Creek road construction.	Transportation System	C	See 2.1 and 2.2.2.
Hitchcock	L15 C9	Disclose budget, construction schedule, and workforce requirements to complete proposed action	Transportation System/Economics	R	The project would occur in the summer/fall of 2004. Heavy equipment and hand tools would be used. Decommissioning costs vary between \$500 - \$1,000/mile.
Jones	E5 C1	Increased use on roads has resulted in environmental degradation.	Soil & Water Resources	C	
Jones	E5 C2	Concerned about locating a trailhead at the end of FDR 736.		ALT	See 2.1
Jones	E5 C3	Many watershed assessment and roads analysis recommendations are not part of this project.		C	Several recommendations were made (see 3.11.1). Those recommendations may be proposed sometime in the future.
Jones	E6 C4	Decommissioning is significant; would operations be conducted such that the environment is protected.		C	
Jones	E6 C5	Explain the monitoring that would be conducted		R	A watershed specialist would be on site during implementation to monitor for proper implementation of the project.

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Jones	E6 C6	Explain how the Forest would respond to new damage that could result from unintended new use patterns.		R	See 3.7, 3.8, and 3.10
Jones	E6 C7	How would new trailheads connect to existing trails		R	See 2.2.2 and 2.2.3
Jones	E6 C8	Concerned about locating a trailhead at the end of FDR 736.		ALT	See 2.1
Jones	T3 C1	Expressed environment concerns about locating a trailhead at the end of Road 736.	Soil & Water Resources	ALT	See 2.1
Knowles	L5 C1	It seem that closing roads and squeezing the public off of the forest is a never ending objective	Recreation & Human Uses	C	
Knowles	L5 C2-4	Existing roads provide access for elderly hunters, fire wood gathering, and multi use recreation	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Knowles	L5 C5	Converting FSR 512 to a motorized trail & leaving the remainder of loop open makes no sense.	Transportation System	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Knowles	L5 C6	Water quality impacts could be improved with properly constructed drainage structures	Soil & Water Resources	C	
Knowles	L5 C7	The continued closure of roads discriminates against disabled and elderly who cannot walk long distances	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Laidlaw	E2 C1	Rather than decommission roads, there is an opportunity to set up a program where user groups can be responsible for maintenance.		ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned. See also 2.1.
Livingston	L19 C1	Closure of roads will impact firewood gathering	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Livingston	L19 C10	Proper maintenance of existing roads would reduce impact to watershed	Soil & Water Resources	C	
Livingston	L19 C2	Closure of roads will impact other recreation and hunting	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Livingston	L19 C3	Closure of roads will impact fire suppression activity		C	See 3.6 Fire and Fuels.
Livingston	L19 C4	Closure of roads will discriminate against elderly and disabled	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Livingston	L19 C5	Have not seen degradation of watershed		GS	
Livingston	L19 C6	Properly constructed drainage structures will reduce erosion concerns during spring run-off	Soil & Water Resources	C	
Livingston	L19 C7	Install and lock a gate until after the spring run-off has dried up to reduce vehicle use during wet period	Transportation System	C	
Livingston	L19 C8	Closing of FSR 504 deprives people from accessing a beautiful spot for summer picnic and would lengthen the hike into Deacon Lake by over a mile	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Livingston	L19 C9	Closing roads will result in and increased volume of traffic on fewer roads	Transportation System	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Marohl	L45 C1	Concerned that the proposed action would affect hunters ability to retrieve game.	Recreation and Human Uses	C	
Marohl	L45 C2	Concern for fire fighting access.		C	See 3.6
Marohl	L45 C3	Concerned if project would create an erosion problem.	Soil & Water Resources	C	See3.1
Marohl	L45 C4	Supports the no action alternative.		RD	
Mason	L13	Commenter's letter is a form letter identical to Knowles' (L5). Please see Knowles' (L5) Comments			
Mason	L36 C1	Against closing any more roads than what are already closed	Recreation & Human Uses	C	
Mason	L36 C2	Proposal for 811-trailhead on FSR 504.1A is okay.	Recreation & Human Uses	RD	
Mason	L36 C3	Increase distance of off road travel for game retrieval	Recreation & Human Uses	OS	
Mason	L36 C4	Convert FSR 512 to a motorized trail	Transportation System	RD	
McGinity, T Cross Ranch	L29 C2	Interested in a public meeting.		R	See 1.6.4
McGinity, T Cross Ranch	L29 C3	T Cross did not receive a scoping statement.		C	See 1.6.1, news release.
McGinity, T Cross Ranch	L29 C4	Decision date on the schedule of proposed action does not correspond to the anticipated decision date.		C	See 1.8

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
McGinity, T Cross Ranch	L29 C5	Request copy of cultural resource survey.		R	
McGinity, T Cross Ranch	L29 L30 L31 C1	Opposed to locating a trailhead at the end of FSR 736.		ALT	See 2.1
McGinity, T Cross Ranch	L33 C2	Supports Forest Plan goals		ALT	See 2.1
McGinity, T Cross Ranch,	L26 C1	The T Cross Ranch would lose business if the trailhead were relocated near the ranch.	Recreation and Human Uses	ALT	No longer part of the proposed action. See 1.5 and 2.1.
McGinity, T Cross Ranch,	L26 C2	Purpose for relocating trailhead does not meet the need and purpose of the proposed project	Soil & Water Resources	ALT	No longer part of the proposed action. See 1.5 and 2.1.
McGinity, T Cross Ranch,	L26 C3	Notification of affected parties was insufficient		C	See 1.6
McGinity, T Cross Ranch,	L26 C4	The public comment period was inadequate		C	The Forest will continue to accept comments on the project up until the date a decision is made.
McGinity, T Cross Ranch,	L26 C5	Trailhead relocation will only bring more opportunity for bear-human interaction near T Cross Ranch		ALT	No longer part of the proposed action. See 1.5 and 2.1.
Milton	L31 C1	Concerned about limiting access to public lands with no regard to community and economy.	Recreation and Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Milton	L31 C10	How did the roads analysis conclude that the watershed is experiencing increased traffic?	Transportation System	R	
Milton	L31 C11	What evidence is there that lynx existed in the watershed and what was the population in the 1920's? Who collects this information?		R	
Milton	L31 C12	When and where were lynx last sighted on the Forest?		R	
Milton	L31 C13	Are any of the roads proposed for decommissioning needed for future timber sales?	Transportation System	R	The proposed action is based upon recommendations that anticipate access for future resource management. See 1.1.1 and 3.11
Milton	L31 C14	Consider impacts to preventing a major wildfire. Address fire fighter access & safety. The Forest needs to provide safety zones private property protection.	Transportation System		See 3.6
Milton	L31 C15	Consider the impact to the local community.		R	

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Milton	L31 C16	Need to consult with local community and have a public meeting.		R	See 1.6.1, 1.6.2, 1.6.3, 1.6.4, and 1.6.5
Milton	L31 C17	Reduces access.	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Milton	L31 C2	Who conducted sediment studies and when where they completed?	Soil & Water Resources	R	The Forest conducted stream health inventories on nine reaches within the watershed during 1994 & 1995.
Milton	L31 C3	Explain sediment collection methods and the determination that sediment from roads is a problem.	Soil & Water Resources	R	
Milton	L31 C4	Were drought conditions during the past seven years taken into account during the sediment sampling?	Soil & Water Resources	R	
Milton	L31 C5	Have in-stream flow studies been conducted? Were any aquatic insect studies conducted?	Soil & Water Resources	R	The Forest has not conducted in-stream flow or aquatic insect studies.
Milton	L31 C6	The Forest should consult with Game & Fish		R	See comments from Wyoming Game & Fish
Milton	L31 C7	What is the grizzly population in the Drainage and what portion is based on estimates versus hard count.		R	
Milton	L31 C8	Who determines what the population of grizzlies and lynx should be and how many are needed?		R	The Forest manages habitat and the Game & Fish manages wildlife populations. The US Fish and Wildlife Service manages Threatened and Endangered Species and sets criteria for recovery.
Milton	L31 C9	Given recent grizzly numbers, it does not appear the increased traffic is threatening the population.		GS	
Patterson	L7 C1	Closure of 504.1A and 507, and converting 512 to a motorized trail would severely negatively impact recreational activities & economic health.	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) was developed to provide an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Patterson	L7 C2	FSR 504.1A and 507 should remain for high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle use.	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	See Alternative 3 (2.2.3).
Patterson	L7 C3	Existing roads provide access to historic and scenic areas for recreation	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Patterson	L7 C4	Removing roads will limit availability to elderly population	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Patterson	L7 C5	Existing roads provide rapid removal of game, reducing the chance for human-predator interactions	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Patterson	L7 C6	Existing road access provides significant level of economic value to local communities	Recreation and Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Patterson	L7 C7	Closing existing roads will not significantly improve the watershed quality in Horse Creek basin	Soil & Water Resources	C	
People for Wyoming	L24 C1	This proposal should be put on hold until the Dept. of AG has received & analyzed comments on Transportation Plan.		R	See 1.1.1 Horse Creek Watershed Assessment and Roads Analysis
People for Wyoming	L24 C10	What is the estimated population of elk and deer in the watershed		R	See 3.5 Wildlife and subsections
People for Wyoming	L24 C11	The project will likely impact business economics in Dubois	Recreation and Human Uses	C	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
People for Wyoming	L24 C2	The FS continues to ignore R.S. 2477		C	The Federal Land Policy & Management Act repealed R.S. 2477 in 1976. There are no R.S. 2477 claims in the area.
People for Wyoming	L24 C3	We would like to see any mention of lynx security removed		R	
People for Wyoming	L24 C4	A recent Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling said federal agencies cannot manage land as if a species were present (lynx)		GS	
People for Wyoming	L24 C5	Agree to prescribed fires and timber sales		GS	
People for Wyoming	L24 C6	This project is another de-facto attempt to create more wilderness area		GS	
People for Wyoming	L24 C7	The closure of two trailheads seems questionable. Clarify proposal for trailheads.	Recreation & Human Uses	C	See 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.3
People for Wyoming	L24 C8	What level of dispersed camping will you allow and how will you monitor it	Recreation & Human Uses	OS	
People for Wyoming	L24 C9	Include the affect of wildlife grazing within riparian areas	Soil & Water Resources	C	See 3.11, 3.11.1, and 3.11.2
People For Wyoming	L2 C1	Request 90-day extension to comment period for scoping		R	The Forest provided People of Wyoming with a 15-day extension on the official comment period. The Forest will accept comments up until the date a decision is made.

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
People For Wyoming	L2 C2	Request Public Hearing		R	See 1.6.4 for Public Field Trip.
People For Wyoming	T1 C1	Scoping Letter not posted in Riverton Ranger Paper		C	See 1.6.1 Scoping Statement, a news release was issued.
People For Wyoming	T1 C2	Organization was not mailed copy of scoping letter despite requesting inclusion on mailing list		C	
People For Wyoming	T1 C3	Organization members unable to meet in timely fashion to address project and provide comments		C	The Forest will continue to accept comments on the project up until the date a decision is made.
People For Wyoming	T1 C4	Request Public Hearing		R	See 1.6.4 for Public Field Trip.
People For Wyoming	T1 C5	Project is premature based on the need to conduct a forest-wide road analysis.		C	See 1.1.1 Horse Creek Watershed Assessment and Roads Analysis
Poffenberger,	L21 C1	Consider leaving all existing roads open		R	See 2.1
Ralston	L41 C1	Generally supportive of 811-trailhead/FDR graveling work.	Transportation System	RD	
Ralston	L41 C10	Sedimentation is a result of naturally unstable and erosive soils and lack of spring flushing flows.	Soil & Water Resources	GS	
Ralston	L41 C11	A wildfire would create watershed problems. Timber management is less damaging environmentally.	Soil & Water Resources	GS	
Ralston	L41 C12	The cumulative effect of road decommissioning and closures is that the public is forced into smaller travel corridors; crowding & decreased enjoyment results.	Recreation and Human Uses	C	See 3.11.2
Ralston	L41 C13	The sediment problem is difficult to measure and has no single significant problem areas. The Forest lacks long-term watershed data.	Soil & Water Resources	C	See 3.1
Ralston	L41 C14	Consider the following: cumulative economic impact of forest-wide watershed improvement projects and other projects; cumulative effect of condensing forest visitors into smaller areas; half the district is Wilderness and additional areas area unroaded; and weather, fire, and soils are the largest factors in watershed issues.		R	See 3.11.2
Ralston	L41 C15	Requests an alternative action to make the minor changes with as few closures as possible.	Transportation System	ALT	See 2.1
Ralston	L41 C2	Improve the 811-trailhead. Leave the 810-Trailhead alone and Monitor whether it should be improved or removed.		ALT	

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Ralston	L41 C3	FSR 505.1CA is not close to live water.	Soil & Water Resources	C	See 3.2
Ralston	L41 C4	Many people use FSR 507, 700, and 700.A.	Recreation and Human Uses	C	
Ralston	L41 C5	The FSR 512/Five Mile Ridge area appears to be a prime corridor for catastrophic wildfire to escape from the Dunoir valley into Horse Creek, which contains fuels that would propel the fire into the Wiggins Fork.		C	See 3.6
Ralston	L41 C6	FSR 512 is rarely traveled and should be left open	Transportation System	ALT	See 2.2.3
Ralston	L41 C7	Few people use FSDR 512 when it is moist during the spring and FSR 512 is not near a live stream.	Soil & Water Resources	C	FSR 512 also becomes moist during summer thunderstorms and during the fall hunting season. Surface erosion and soil productivity is a concern on this road.
Ralston	L41 C8	Closing FSR 686 and leaving it in place does not meet objective of improving watershed conditions.	Soil & Water Resources	C	FSR 686 was identified as needed for future management needs.
Ralston	L41 C9	FSR 504.1A could be left open with improved signage & an inexpensive correction on the stream crossing,	Transportation System	ALT	See 2.1
Sackett's	L3 C1	Current road system provides access to recreational use within the watershed	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Sackett's	L3 C2	The existing roads provide additional safety to users by allowing vehicles to remain in close proximity	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Sackett's	L3 C3	The existing roads should remain open	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	Alternative 3 (2.2.3) provides an alternative where no currently open roads would be decommissioned.
Sackett's	L3 C4	Request Public Hearing		R	See 1.6.4 for Public Field Trip.
Senator Enzi's Office	E1 - L28 C1	Request a formal public hearing in the town of Dubois to discuss the economic, recreation, and other vital issues concerning the impact of this project.		R	See 1.6.2 and 1.6.4
Shoshone-Bannok Tribes	L27 C1	Concerned if this project would affect the treaty rights held under the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868		C	The project would not affect treaty rights.
Shoshone-Bannok Tribes	L27 C2	Explain what would happen with the roads proposed for decommissioning.		R	See 1.4.2, 1.5, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, and 2.2.4

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Shoshone-Bannok Tribes	L27 C3	Explain plans for the two trailheads		R	See 2.2.3 and 2.2.4
Shoshone-Bannok Tribes	L27 C4	The area may contain cultural resources important to the Shoshone and Bannock people. Send copy of cultural investigation.		C, R	See 3.9Heritage Resources.
Suda	T2 C1	Forest should maintain current roads	Transportation System	RD	
Suda	T2 C2	Does not agree that there are watershed problems	Soil & Water Resources	C	
Suda	T2 C3	Supports graveling roads that access trailheads	Transportation System	RD	
Suda	T2 C4	Supports improving the parking at the trailhead	Recreation & Human Uses	RD	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C1	Have a 1-mile disturbance-free buffer by bald eagle nests or avoid activity between Feb. 15 & Aug. 15.		R	See 2.2.4
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C10	Project may allow increased intrusion of predators that would compete with Lynx		C	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C11	Increased urbanization of area may adversely impact Lynx habitat		GS	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C12	Increased fragmentation of the area may adversely impact Lynx habitat		C	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C13	Increased timber sales and fire suppression measures may adversely impact Lynx habitat		OS	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C14	Increased human presence in area may adversely impact Lynx due to increased human-lynx interaction		C	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C15	Close & obliterate roads constructed for logging following logging activities. Roads should not penetrate old growth areas to reduce Lynx impacts		C	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C16	Do not establish and maintain new roads due to their potential impact to Lynx habitat		OS	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C17	Caution in making a "no effect" determination on the Lynx due to no known occurrence		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C18	Assess impacts to the yellow-billed cuckoo		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C19	Assess impacts to the bald and golden eagle		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C2	Project may cause grizzly mortality due to the increase in direct and/or indirect human activity		C	

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C20	If nest manipulation is proposed for the project, the project proponent must acquire permit from USFWS		R	No nest manipulation is proposed.
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C21	USFWS request review of any BA/BE		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C22	USFWS request opportunity to concur with any findings of "not likely to affect"		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C23	BA/BE should be completed within 180 days of receipt of species list (01/15/02)		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C24	BA/BE should be initiated within 90 days of receipt of species list (01/15/02)		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C25	USFWS recommends format for BA/BE		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C26	Use non-Federal representatives with proper guidance/oversight if 3rd party prepares BA/BE.		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C27	Section 7(d) of ESA requires that FS not take any irreversible or irretrievable actions prior to conclusion of consultation		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C28	FS must make jeopardy determination on non-essential and non-listed species and consult with FWS		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C29	Consider direct & indirect impacts to fish & wildlife from connected and/or similar actions.		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C3	Consider indirect impact to grizzly due to attraction to human-bear interaction		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C30	Consider impacts to T&E species on non-Federal Lands		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C4	Road closures should include kelly humps, tank traps, piling logs, debris, and/or slash across the entire road grade or obliteration and revegetation		R	Methods to prohibit motorized use would restore natural drainage patterns, remove fills, revegetate the prism, place course woody debris, and recontour slopes.
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C5	Section 7 (a)(1) and 7(a)(4) requires conservation of listed species and consultation with USFWS		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C6	Must consider impacts to Gray Wolf and other non-essential species		R	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C7	Project may cause loss or modification of Lynx habitat		C	
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C8	Project may increase commercial harvest of Lynx		C	

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
US Fish & Wildlife Service	L4 C9	There are inadequate regulatory mechanism to protect Lynx and their habitat		OS	
Weaver	L16 C1	Supportive of efforts to manage off-road vehicle use.	Transportation System	RD	
Weaver	L16 C2	The proposed action must receive full NEPA analysis.		R	
WOC – WY Outdoor Council	L18 C1	WOC supports decommissioning and restoration of unnecessary roads	Transportation System	RD	
WOC	L18 C10	NEPA document should include monitoring results from previous logging activities and the effect to MIS		R	See 3.11, 3.11.1, 3.11.2, and 3.5.3.
WOC	L18 C11	Document the reduction in road density and disclose remaining effective habitat		R	An existing secure habitat analysis was conducted for the roads analysis. See 3.5 and subsections.
WOC	L18 C12	FS should provide adequate mitigation measures to correct or prevent inadequate road closures	Transportation System	RD	
WOC	L18 C13	Effective road closure will have a beneficial effect on secure habitat for several species		GS	
WOC	L18 C14	BA/BE should be conducted on T&E and sensitive species		R	
WOC	L18 C15	Consider corridor use by MIS and T&E species and consider impact on such corridors		R	
WOC	L18 C16	Evaluate oil/gas development, past logging, and road construction/reconstruction effects to species.		R	See sections 3.11, 3.5, and 3.11.
WOC	L18 C17	Request that all riparian areas be excluded from future roads and timber harvest.		OS	
WOC	L18 C18	Promote aspen regeneration projects along riparian areas		OS	
WOC	L18 C19	Analyze impacts to fisheries by sedimentation, channel stability, and increase water temperature	Soil & Water Resources	R	See 3.1
WOC	L18 C2	There is a nationwide injunction, issued by US Courts on using categorical exclusion on timber sales		OS	
WOC	L18 C20	Consider areas such as where the FSR 511 crosses the Blue Slide that have contributed to sediment loads.		R	See Horse Creek Roads Analysis (Shoshone NF, 2000b).
WOC	L18 C21	Include baseline assessment of sediment loading for all streams in project area		R	
WOC	L18 C22	Disclose any streams with pure strains of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and impacts prevented		R	See 3.1, Aquatic Life

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
WOC	L18 C23	Complete visual quality analysis		R	
WOC	L18 C24	Consider impacts to T&E plants		R	See 3.5.1
WOC	L18 C25	The proposed harvest units and other potential impacts to T&E plants must be addressed		R	There are no proposed harvest units.
WOC	L18 C26	Document noxious weed control and demonstrate funding support		R	See 2.2.4
WOC	L18 C27	Proposal to combine trailheads near the T-Cross Ranch is fine as long as an alternative trail remains on to Five Pockets on the West at FSR 507	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	See 2.1 Alternatives Considered But Eliminated from Detailed Study. See also Chapter 2 2.2.2, and 2.2.3
WOC	L18 C28	Effective road closure, signage, and enforcement should correct impacts.	Transportation System	RD	
WOC	L18 C29	Cultural resource reconnaissance is necessary to analyze effects		R	See 3.9
WOC	L18 C3	Take into consideration the impacts associated with past timber sales and roads to the environment		R	
WOC	L18 C4	Document science supporting success of White Bark Pine regeneration in timber harvest areas		OS	
WOC	L18 C5	Review of the potential effects that created openings would have on MIS, ungulates, and T&E species		OS	Vegetative management is not proposed by this project
WOC	L18 C6	Include an alternative which excludes domestic livestock grazing from areas to be regenerated to maximize potential seedling tree survival		OS	Vegetative management is not proposed by this project
WOC	L18 C7	Protect roadless areas from further illegal vehicular encroachment		RD	
WOC	L18 C8	Consider all other properties and non-Federal activities in the cumulative analysis		R	
WOC	L18 C9	Consider impacts to MIS		R	See 3.5.3
WRBCH – Wind River Back Country Horsemen	L35 C1	Supportive of the general actions to effectively manage the watershed and the transportation system	Soil & Water Resources Transportation System	RD	
WRBCH	L35 C10	The WRBCH would help develop a first class trailhead facility at the 810-trailhead site.		GS	
WRBCH	L35 C2	There are signs of watershed degradation that will worsen if corrective is not taken	Soil & Water Resources	C	

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
WRBCH	L35 C3	It is not realistic to keep most these roads open given the environmental effects and financial constraints.	Soil & Water Resources Economics	GS	
WRBCH	L35 C4	Retain FSR 504.1A, 505.1B, 505.1CA, 507, 692, and 512 as open. Obliterate two -tracks & unauthorized motorized trails. Improve signage & enforce closures.	Transportation System	ALT	See 2.2.3
WRBCH	L35 C5	Not supportive of locating a trailhead at the end of FSR 736.	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	See 2.1
WRBCH	L35 C6	Not supportive of enlarging/improving the 811-trailhead. Upgrading FSR 504 and enlarging the trailhead appears very expensive. The rough cobble road is not appropriate for horse trailer use, even if the clay section is graveled. Shortening the distance to wilderness and gaining elevation should not be of prime importance; ease of access and construction costs should be driving factors.	Recreation & Human Uses Transportation System/Economics	C	
WRBCH	L35 C7	Recommend new trailhead either at the existing 810 site or on FSR 507 near Bartrand Springs, where a water source could be developed. A trailhead could be constructed for a moderate expense. Graveling of FSR 507 would be less expensive than graveling FSR 504.	Recreation & Human Uses Transportation System/Economics	ALT	See 2.1
WRBCH	L35 C8	Trailhead on FSR 507 should include hitch rails or permanent high lines and toilets.	Recreation & Human Uses	ALT	See 2.1
WRBCH	L35 C9	Generally, horsemen pulling expensive trailers prefer well maintain roads and developed trailheads, even if that adds a few miles to their backcountry destination. A trailhead on FSR 507 would only extend the ride to Five Pockets by three miles.	Recreation & Human Uses Transportation System	ALT	See 2.1
Wy. Depart. Of Envir. Quality	L9 C1	Project may required the following permits - NPDES (discharge permit), Storm Water Associated with Construction Activities, Section 404 (Corps)	Soil & Water Resources	C	
Wy. Depart. Of Envir. Quality	L9 C2	Proposed action may adversely impact riparian areas	Soil & Water Resources	C	See 3.1
Wy. Depart. Of Envir. Quality	L9 C3	Effort must be taken to reduce erosion during construction activities that may effect water quality	Soil & Water Resources	R	WCPs and BMPs will be implemented to reduce erosion and protect water quality.
Wyoming Game & Fish	L8 C1	Area supports Winter Yearlong and Crucial Winter Yearlong ranges for the Dubois Mule Deer Herd and Wiggins Fork Elk Herd; Winter Yearlong range for the Dubois Moose Herd and Spring-Summer-Fall and Winter Yearlong range for the Wind River Antelope Herd; and important habitat for the grizzly bear		GS	

Source	#	Comment (paraphrased)	Issue	Type	Disposition
Wyoming Game & Fish	L8 C2	This proposal would close a substantial, but unspecified number of miles of road	Transportation System	C	Please see Chapter 2 (Alternatives) for an explanation of the mileages proposed for decommissioning by alternative.
Wyoming Game & Fish	L8 C3	May reduce vehicle disturbance and increase size and extent of the security areas and habitat effectiveness		GS	
Wyoming Game & Fish	L8 C4	Overall, no wildlife concerns with this project		GS	
Wyoming Game & Fish	L8 C5	May provide long-term benefit to local aquatic habitats by reducing disturbance within the watershed		GS	
Wyoming OFLP	L11 C1	Consider effects to cultural, wildlife, and permitting issues noted by other State agencies		R	See 2.2.4, 3.9, and 3.5

Appendix C – PETS

Figure C - 1. Sensitive plants on the Shoshone National Forest.

Species Name	Vegetation Type	Soil Type	Habitat Present in Analysis Area	Analysis Area Method of Survey	Species Present in Analysis Area	Notes
Pink agoseris (<i>Agoseris lackschwitzii</i>)	Wet Montane/subalpine meadows	Variable	Possible	Literature cited	Not documented	Mountain meadows
Round-leaved orchid (<i>Amerorchis rotundifolia</i>)	Coniferous bogs	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	Swamp Lake area primary occurrence
Red manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos rubra</i>)	Coniferous bogs	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	Swamp lake area primary occurrence
Upward-lobe moonwort (<i>Botrychium ascendens</i>)	Wet meadows/willow	Alluvium	Possible	Literature cited	Not documented	Willow riparian
Livid sedge (<i>Carex livida</i>)	Floating mats, bogs, fens	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	
Wyoming tansymustard (<i>Descurainia torulosa</i>)	Rocky slopes and ridges	Volcanic	Possible	Literature cited	Not documented	Endemic to Absaroka Mountain Range
Kirkpatrick's ipomopsis (<i>Ipomopsis spicata</i> spp. <i>robruthii</i>)	Alpine scree	Volcanic	Possible	Literature cited	Documented on Carter Mountain	Alpine habitat
Fremont bladderpod (<i>Lesquerella fremontii</i>)	Barren slopes and ridges	Calcareous	Possible	Literature cited	Not documented	meadows
Hall's fescue (<i>Festuca hallii</i>)	Montane grassland	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	
Marsh muhly (<i>Muhlenbergia glomerata</i>)	Bogs, floating mats, fens	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	Swamp Lake area primary occurrence
Naked-stemmed parrya (<i>Parrya nudicaulis</i>)	Alpine	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	
Greenland primrose (<i>Primula egalikensis</i>)	Bogs, fens	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	Swamp Lake area primary occurrence
Absaroka goldenweed (<i>Pyrocoma carthamoides</i> var. <i>subsquarrosa</i>)	Montane meadows, grasslands	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	
Myrtleleaf willow (<i>Salix myrtillifolia</i> var. <i>myrtillifolia</i>)	Floating mats, bogs, fens	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	Swamp Lake area primary occurrence
Rolland bulrush (<i>Scirpus rollandii</i>)	Floating mats, bogs, fens	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	Swamp Lake area primary occurrence
Shoshonea <i>Shoshonea pulvinata</i>	Calcareous Soils & Rock outcrops	Calcareous	No	Literature cited	Not documented	
North Fork easter daisy (<i>Townsendia condensate</i> var. <i>anomala</i>)	Rocky slopes and ridges	Volcanic	No	Literature cited	Not documented	Endemic to Absaroka Mountain Range

Figure C - 2. Threatened and endangered species occurrence in the analysis area.

Species	Status	Species Occurrence on Forest	General Habitat	Habitat exists in analysis area	Likelihood of species occurring in area	Carry forward?
Canada lynx (<i>Felis lynx canadensis</i>)	Threatened	Yes, but rare	Mature forest	Yes	Likely	Yes
Grizzly bear (<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>)	Threatened	Yes	Variable	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Threatened	Yes	Lakes, Rivers	No	Unlikely	No
Gray wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>)	Nonessential, experimental	Yes	Variable	Yes	Yes	Yes
Black-footed ferret (<i>Mustela nigripes</i>)	Endangered	No	Prairie dog towns	No	Unlikely	No
Mountain plover (<i>Charadrius montanus</i>)	Proposed	No	Prairie wetland	No	Unlikely	No

Canada Lynx

The Fish and Wildlife Service published a Final Rule in the Federal Register on March 24, 2000 listing the North American lynx population in the contiguous United States as a threatened species. The Forest Service is currently working under the Canada Lynx Conservation Agreement, which states that the federal agencies will consider and attempt to follow the recommendations set forth in the Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (LCAS) (USDA FS et al., 2000).

Habitat and Distribution

Primary lynx habitat in the western mountains consists of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce (Aubry et al. 2000). Lynx require both early successional forests with plentiful prey (especially snowshoe hares) for foraging as well as late successional forests that contain cover for kittens and for denning. Intermediate successional stages may serve as travel cover for lynx and provide connectivity within a forest landscape. Denning sites must be in close proximity to foraging habitat and denning and foraging habitats must be interconnected by stands suitable for lynx travel (Koehler and Aubry 1994).

Designated habitat for the lynx is termed potential habitat as per the 2000 Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy, and was mapped for the Shoshone in 2002. Lynx Analysis Units (LAU) were also delineated as areas to consider project impacts to this species.

The watershed has potential habitat for lynx (Figure C - 3). LAU # 11 is essentially the same as the Horse Creek Watershed. There are 9,532 acres of potential lynx habitat within the Forest portion the Horse Creek Watershed. Forest cover types of lodgepole pine and spruce-fir are present. The current age-class structure within this watershed shows a trend toward a greater proportion of older age stands. Many of these stands could provide denning or security habitat for lynx. Much of the spruce-fir are late successional stands with large amounts of coarse woody debris, multiple-age classes of trees, and limited human disturbance and provide the attributes of denning or security habitat and foraging habitat for alternate prey, such as red squirrels.

Although there are even-age, older stands of lodgepole pine, most are void of understory vegetation, especially shrubs, but most stands have large amounts of coarse woody debris. However, these stands don't provide the same vertical diversity or structure as spruce-fir stands and are probably marginal denning habitat. And because of their age and structure, their canopies are well beyond the reach of snowshoe hares during most winters' snow depths, and so they don't function as foraging habitat for hares or lynx either. These older lodgepole pine stands can function as travel cover.

There are some areas in the watershed where past harvest activities have created some earlier successional stands of lodgepole pine. There are two general areas (Burroughs Creek and Elkhorn Ridge) within the landscape that have stands that qualify as foraging habitat for lynx, however they are moving toward later stages of regeneration and may become marginal foraging habitat in a decade or more.

Most of the 9,532 acres of potential lynx habitat shown in Figure C - 3 is best described as denning or marginal denning habitat. The late successional vegetative communities that dominate the landscape provide a disproportionate large amount of denning habitat or habitat that functions as travel cover compared to foraging habitat.

Habitat and extensive winter snow survey work has been conducted for this species during the recent past on the Shoshone National Forest in partnership with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. The areas with the most potential habitat occur in the Dubois/Togwotee Pass area and in the Beartooth Mountains. Tracks of two different lynx have been confirmed in the Dubois area and tracks of a single lynx in the Beartooths just across the Wyoming/Montana state line and immediately adjacent to the Shoshone National Forest were also located. Lynx tracks were located several years ago in the vicinity of Horse Creek and Burroughs Creek. Hair surveys conducted on the district, including transects in this watershed, have failed to detect the presence of lynx during 1999, 2000, and 2001. However, additional tracks of two different size lynx were observed in the Horse Creek analysis area in March of 2003.

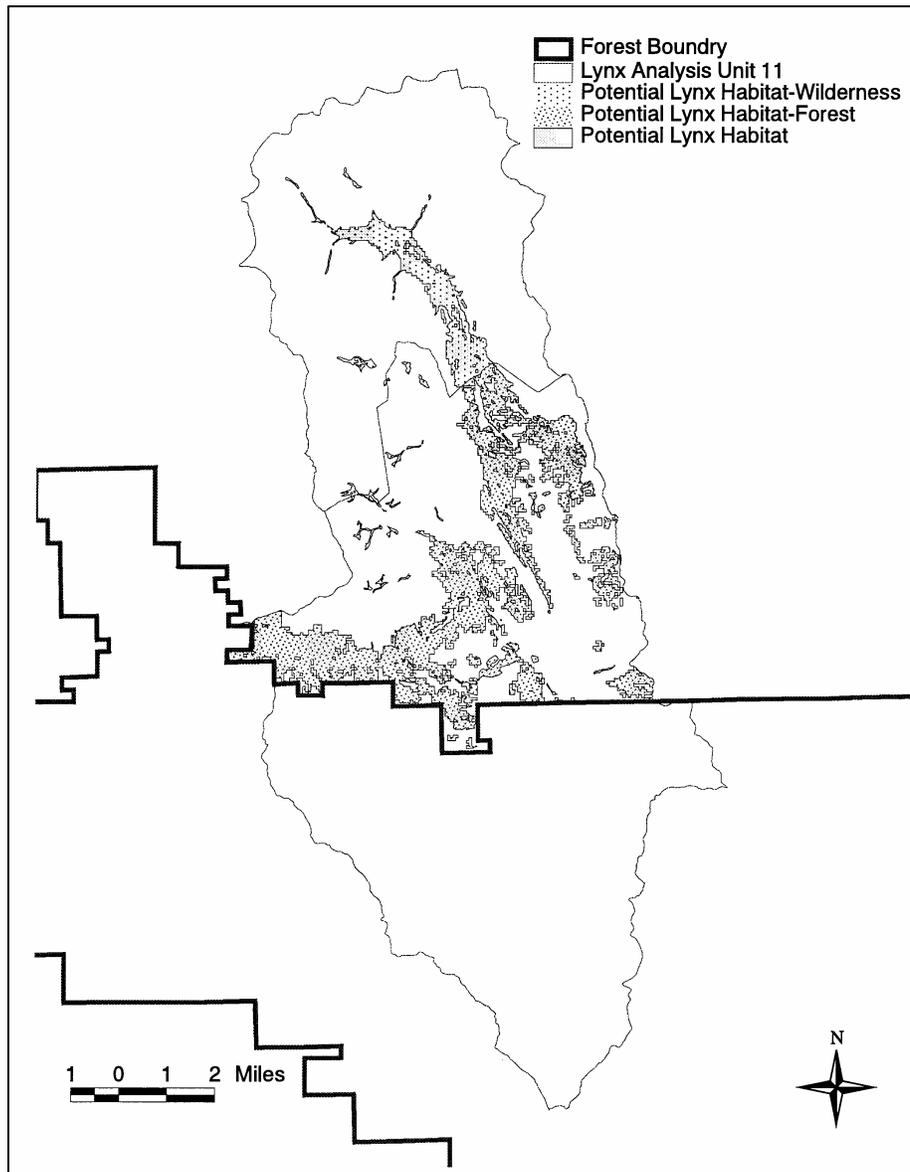


Figure C - 3. Potential lynx habitat within the Lynx Analysis Unit # 11 in the Horse Creek Watershed.

Grizzly Bears

The officially designated grizzly bear recovery area occurs in or immediately adjacent to the Washakie Wilderness within the Horse Creek analysis area. The project areas for the Horse Creek watershed improvement occurs outside the recovery zone and thus are in areas of the forest where the Recovery Plan has not directed management for bears and their habitat. Federal agencies, such as the Shoshone National Forest, are required to conserve listed species, such as the grizzly bear, and not jeopardize their continued existence wherever they occur.

Distribution and Habitat

In the past decade, grizzlies have expanded their range on the Forest and the recovery goals for this species in the Yellowstone Ecosystem has been met. Grizzly bears occur in the watershed. Their numbers appear to be increasing in the ecosystem based on recent trends. Their occurrence in the watershed is more common today compared to the recent past (20 - 25 years). They are distributed over most of the Forest portion of the watershed and generally are more common in the lower portions of that area of the watershed during the spring.

Using the definitions and criteria from the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Taskforce Report on Grizzly Bear/Motorized Access Management (July 1994), the secure habitat for the watershed for two non-denning seasons (March 1 through July 15 {Season 1} and July 16 through November 30 {Season 2}) is displayed in Figure C - 4. The portion of the National Forest in this watershed has a larger percentage of secure habitat than those lands (private, state, and BLM) outside of the Forest in this watershed.

Figure C - 4. Percent secure habitat in the Horse Creek watershed by season.

	Horse Creek Watershed		National Forest		Off National Forest	
	Season 1	Season 2	Season 1	Season 2	Season 1	Season 2
Percent of Area in Secure Habitat	53.6	53.3	67.5	67.1	30.4	30.4

Secure habitat in this watershed is displayed in Figure C - 5. The secure habitat occurs mostly in large contiguous blocks in the north half of the watershed, which coincides with the Wilderness. Off forest there are several smaller areas of secure habitat in the vicinity of Spring Mountain, EA Mountain, and the Battrum Mountain/Pony Creek area.

Currently, the watershed has a moderate amount of effective secure habitat, which make it relatively good grizzly bear habitat. Road and travel management that reduces road densities could increase secure habitat in the watershed.

The National Forest portion of the watershed has a higher percentage of the area (60.8) with less than 1.01 miles of total road per square mile (Figure C - 6). However there are areas where the road density exceeds 1.0 mile and 2.0 miles per square mile. When off Forest lands (primarily private lands) are included in the entire watershed analysis, the percentage of area (47.1) with greater than 1.0 mile of total road per square mile is higher than the percentage for only National Forest System lands (39.2).

Horse Creek Watershed Secure Habitat

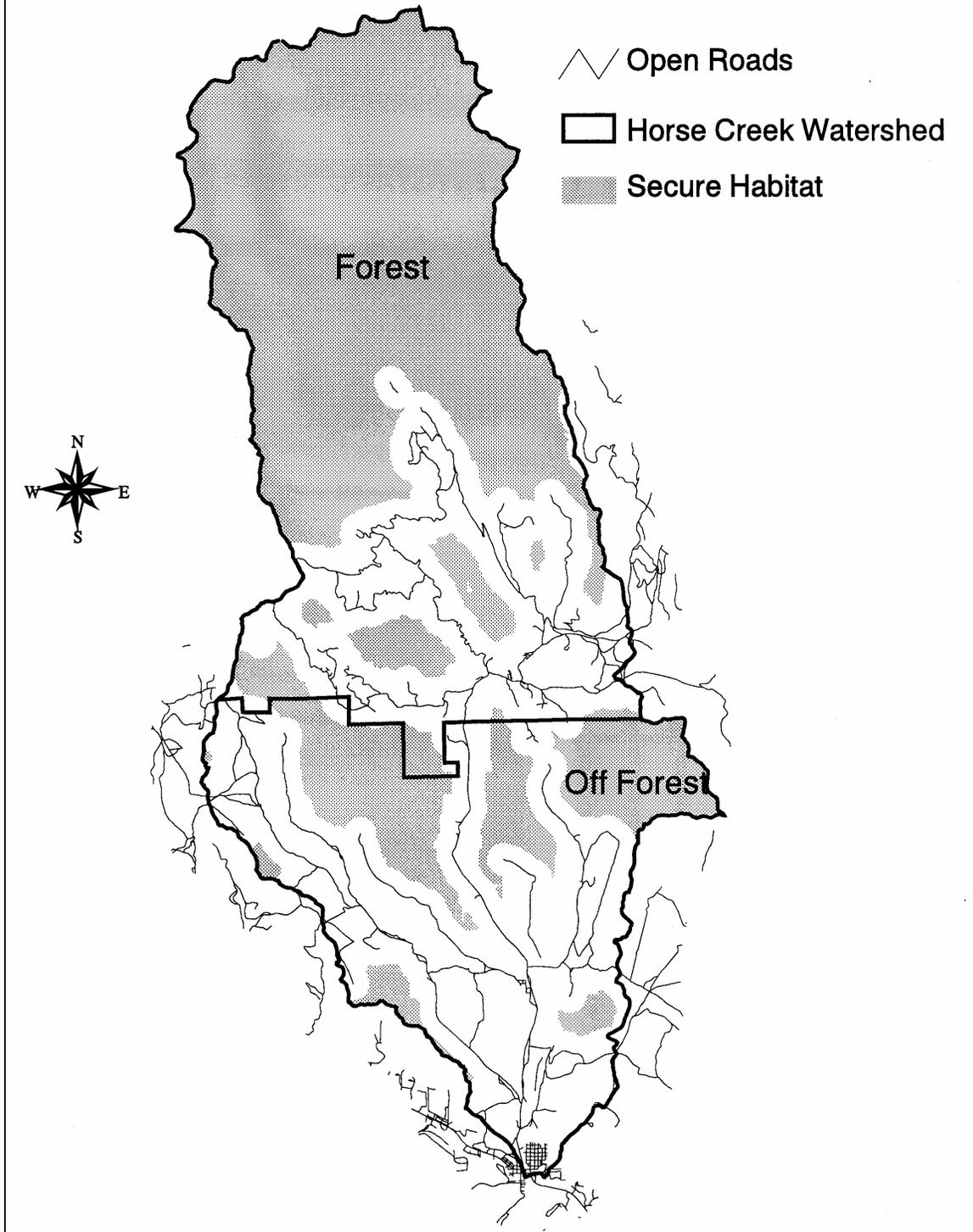


Figure C - 5. Grizzly Bear Secure Habitat in the Horse Creek Watershed

Figure C - 6. Percent of Horse Creek watershed in various total road density categories.

Total Motorized Access Route Density Category	Horse Creek Watershed*	National Forest**	Off National Forest
0 mi./mi.²	37.9	52.3	14.0
0.1-1.0 mi./mi.²	15.1	8.5	25.9
1.01-2.0 mi./mi.²	19.0	11.6	31.3
>2.0 mi./mi.²	28.1	27.6	28.8

*Horse Creek watershed is 76,800 acres

**National Forest area is 47,933 acres

Open motorized access route density includes all open roads. The analysis displayed in Figure C - 1 considers the Brent Creek Road spring closure (April 1 through June 30) as open roads because they get some early spring (March) snowmobile use and are open after June 30 to motorized traffic. Motorized access route density analysis is performed on the seasons specified previously, and for spring /early summer it is March 1 through July 15 (Season 1) and for late summer / fall it is July 16 through November 30 (Season 2). A road open for a single day during a season is considered as an open road for the entire season in this analysis. The analysis shows that approximately 40 percent of the watershed has open motorized access route densities greater than 1.0 mile of road per square mile. Examination of the National Forest and off Forest portions of the watershed separately reveals that the higher open road densities off Forest are a major contributor to the overall high percentage of greater open road densities in the watershed. The Washakie Wilderness is the major and largest contiguous area of no miles of open road per square mile in the watershed.

Figure C - 7. Percent of Horse Creek watershed in various open motorized access route density categories by season.

Open Motorized Access Route Density Category	Horse Creek Watershed		National Forest		Off National Forest	
	Season 1	Season 2	Season 1	Season 2	Season 1	Season 2
0 mi./mi.²	41.0	41.0	56.9	56.9	14.6	14.6
0.1-1.0 mi./mi.²	19.1	18.7	14.6	14.0	26.5	26.5
1.01-2.0 mi./mi.²	20.9	20.9	15.1	15.0	30.6	30.6
>2.0 mi./mi.²	19.0	19.4	13.5	14.1	28.3	28.3

The distribution of the different open motorized access route density categories is displayed in Figure C - 8.

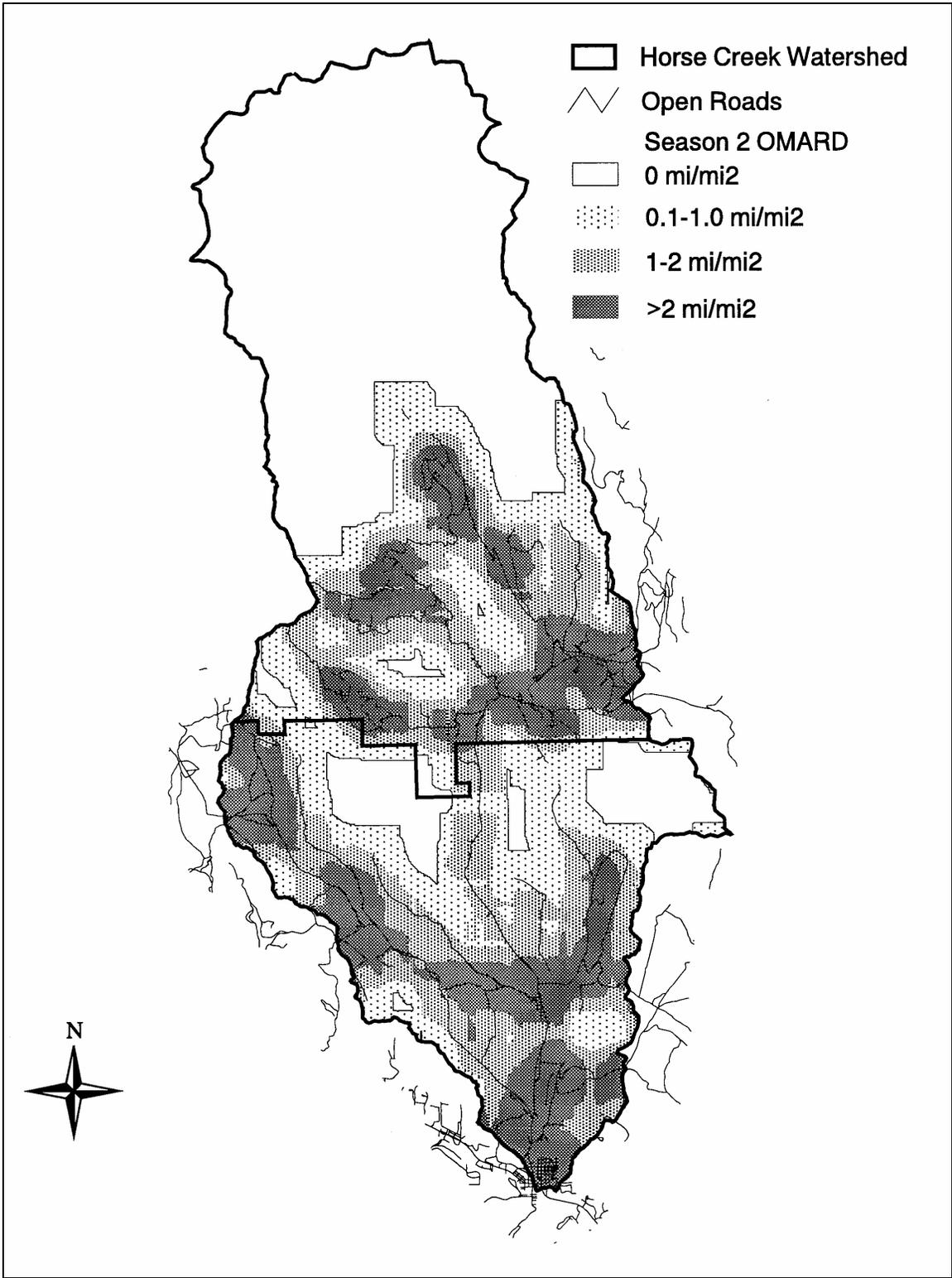


Figure C - 8. Open Motorized Access Route Density in Horse Creek Watershed.

Gray Wolf

The gray wolf is formally listed as threatened; it was reclassified as non-essential, experimental in the Yellowstone area with the publication of the Final Rule in the Federal Register (November 22, 1994; Vol. 59, No. 244). The species was reintroduced in the Yellowstone National Park area in 1995 and as a non-essential, experimental population is managed as a proposed species outside of the National Parks and Refuges. This designation provides greater flexibility in the management of wolves and allows greater accommodation in land use activities.

Habitat and Distribution

The availability of a stable ungulate prey base is the primary habitat requirement for this species, although smaller animals and carrion are also used. Available prey does exist in and adjacent to the analysis area. The gray wolf does use the analysis area. Observations of wolves and locations of radio-collared wolves from the Washakie pack have been made in this analysis area since this pack's establishment in 1997. Wolves have met their recovery criteria and the delisting process for the Yellowstone wolf population has begun.

Figure C - 9. Sensitive wildlife species occurrence in the analysis area.

Species	Species Occurrence on Forest	General Habitat	Habitat exists in analysis area	Likelihood of species occurring in area	Carry forward in analysis?
Dwarf shrew (<i>Sorex nanus</i>)	Yes	Subalpine meadows	Yes	Possible	Yes
Fringe-tailed myotis (<i>Myotis thysanodes pahasapensis</i>)	Yes	Forested edges near caves or mines	No	Unlikely	No
Spotted bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>)	Possibly; not documented	Sedimentary rock crevices	No	Unlikely	No
Townsend's big-eared bat (<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>)	Yes	Caves, forested streamsides	No	Unlikely	No
Allen's thirteen-lined ground squirrel (<i>Spermophilus tridecemlineatus alleni</i>)	Possibly; not documented	Grasslands, shrublands	No	Unlikely	No
Water vole (<i>Microtus richardsoni</i>)	Yes	Subalpine riparian	Yes	Yes	Yes
American marten (<i>Martes Americana</i>)	Yes	Dense coniferous forest	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fisher (<i>Martes pennanti</i>)	Possibly; not documented	Mature coniferous forest	Yes	Possible	Yes
Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>)	Yes	Subalpine coniferous forest	Yes	Possible	Yes
Common loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	Possibly; not documented	Lakes, large ponds	No	Unlikely	No
Trumpeter swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>)	Yes	Lakes, large ponds	No	Unlikely	No
Harlequin duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)	Yes	Remote, mountain streams	Yes	Possible	Yes
Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	Yes	Old growth conifer mix	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ferruginous hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)	Yes	Open Prairie	No	Unlikely	No
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	Yes	Lakes and rivers	No	Unlikely	No
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Yes	Cliffs	No	Unlikely	No

Species	Species Occurrence on Forest	General Habitat	Habitat exists in analysis area	Likelihood of species occurring in area	Carry forward in analysis?
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	Possibly; not documented	Wooded prairie	No	Unlikely	No
Greater sandhill crane (<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>)	Yes	Montane valleys; meadows; willow bottoms	Yes	Occasionally	Yes
Long-billed curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	No	Grasslands	No	Unlikely	No
Upland sandpiper (<i>Bartramia loicauda</i>)	No	Grasslands	No	Unlikely	No
Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>)	No	Marsh	No	Unlikely	No
Yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)	No	Cottonwood riparian	No	Unlikely	No
Burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularis</i>)	No	Grasslands, sagebrush	No	Unlikely	No
Boreal owl (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>)	Yes	Conifer forests	Yes	Possible	Yes
Lewis' woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	No	Ponderosa pine savannah	No	Unlikely	No
Black-backed woodpecker (<i>Picoides arcticus</i>)	Yes	Spruce/fir forests	Yes	Possible	Yes
Northern three-toed woodpecker (<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>)	Yes	Spruce/fir forests	Yes	Possible	Yes
Olive-sided flycatcher (<i>Contopus borealis</i>)	Yes	Coniferous forests	Yes	Possible	Yes
Pygmy nuthatch (<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>)	No	Ponderosa forest	No	Unlikely	No
Golden-crowned kinglet (<i>Regulus satrapa</i>)	Yes	Coniferous and mixed stands	Yes	Possible	Yes
Loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	No	Open shrub/prairie	No	Unlikely	No
Baird's sparrow (<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>)	No	Short grass prairie	No	Unlikely	No
Fox sparrow (<i>Passerella iliaca</i>)	Yes	Riparian	Yes	Possible	Yes
Tiger salamander (<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>)	Yes	Ponds	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boreal western toad (<i>Bufo boreas boreas</i>)	Yes	Forested wetlands	Yes	Possible	Yes
Northern leopard frog (<i>Rana pipiens</i>)	Yes	Aquatic habitats	Yes	Possible	Yes
Spotted frog (<i>Rana pretiosa</i>)	Yes	Glacial ponds, Aquatic habitats	Yes	Possible	Yes
Yellowstone cutthroat trout (<i>Oncorhynchus clarki bouveri</i>)	Yes	Streams	Yes	No pure strains are known to occur	No

Sensitive species that occur, or could occur, in the analysis area have been grouped according to the habitats in which they occur; effects from the project are discussed in that context. Additional limiting factors will be listed if it is helpful in determining effects, or the significance of effects, on the species.

Figure C - 10. Management Indicator Species occurrence in the analysis area.

Species	What species represents	Habitat exists in analysis area	Will species be affected by action?	Select species for this project analysis?
Elk (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>)	Hunted species	Yes	Yes, beneficially	Yes
Mule deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>)	Hunted species	Yes	Yes, beneficially	Yes
Bighorn sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis</i>)	Hunted species	No	No	No
Moose (<i>Alces alces</i>)	Hunted species	Yes	Yes, beneficially	Yes
Mountain goat (<i>Oreamnos americanus</i>)	Hunted species	No	No	No
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Threatened and endangered species	No	No	No
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Threatened and endangered species (now sensitive)	No	No	No
Black-footed ferret (<i>Mustela nigripes</i>)	Threatened and endangered species	No	No	No
Gray wolf (<i>Canis lupus irremotus</i>)	Threatened and endangered species	Yes	No	Covered under T&E
Grizzly bear (<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>)	Threatened and endangered species	Yes	No	Covered under T&E
American marten (<i>Martes americana</i>)	Late successional conifer	Yes	No	Covered under Sensitive Species
Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	Late successional conifer	Yes	No	Covered under Sensitive Species
Brewers sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	Sagebrush	Yes	Yes, beneficially	Yes
Hairy woodpecker (<i>Picoides villosus</i>)	Late successional and aspen	Yes	No	No
Beaver (<i>Caster canadensis</i>)	Riparian areas	Yes	Yes, beneficially	Yes
Blue grouse (<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>)	Sensitivity to vegetation treatments	Yes	No	No
Ruffed Grouse (<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>)	Multistoried aspen	Yes	No	No
Yellowstone cutthroat trout (<i>Oncorhynchus clarki bouvieri</i>)	Aquatic habitat	Yes	No	Covered under Sensitive Species

Elk

Habitat

Elk use alpine pastures, marshy meadows, river flats, aspen parkland, coniferous forests, and brushy edges (NatureServe 2001). The significant elk use that occurs in most of the Horse Creek analysis area is during the spring and fall migration periods. Approximately 7,000 acres of elk calving habitat occur on National Forest System lands in the Horse Creek

analysis area. Some elk may spend the summer in the Horse Creek drainage but the majority of the summer is spent in higher elevations above and outside the project-affected area (such as the Five Pockets area). Elk migrating through this area are primarily enroute to and from the Spring Mountain winter range area in the southern portion of the analysis area. Some winter use can occur on the Forest in Spring Draw and north of Spring Mountain and as elk feed on lower elevation ridges and slopes and then move north into the timber for cover. The amount of use each year is affected to some degree by various factors such as available forage, depth of snow, and severity of the winter. Approximately 2,000 acres of elk crucial winter range occur on National Forest System lands and private inholdings in the Horse Creek, Horse Basin, and Spring Draw areas of the analysis area.

Trend

Elk numbers on the Shoshone have been above Wyoming Game and Fish Department objectives. Last year's winter population estimate for the Wiggins Fork herd, of which the Horse Creek analysis area is a small part, was 6000-6800 elk. The current winter estimate for the West Wiggins Fork segment of this herd (Horse Creek analysis area makes up a much bigger portion of this area) was 2300-2600 elk. The trend is currently stable as Wyoming Game and Fish Commission just approved this increase in the herd unit objective for wintering elk and the method for estimating population objective for the Wiggins Fork Herd.

Mule Deer

Habitat

Mule deer use coniferous forests, desert shrub, chaparral, and grasslands and is most often associated with early and mid successional vegetation (NatureServe 2001). This analysis area provides spring, summer, and fall habitat for mule deer. Transition areas or edges between habitat structural stages are preferred use areas. The Horse Creek watershed does not contain any mapped winter range, although some deer do use the area in winter.

Trend

Deer that use the analysis area are part of the Dubois herd. This herd is under objective by approximately 30%. The reason for the below objective level is that the herd unit objective was raised from 5400 to 10,000 deer in 1994 and the deer population is slowly increasing towards this new objective. The current trend is slightly increasing.

Moose

Habitat

Moose use vegetation generally associated with riparian and other wetland types such as willow, in conjunction with deciduous types and moist spruce/fir types. Moose use of the analysis area is incidental at present due to the limited amount of riparian and deciduous types, as well as the dry site conditions. Areas within the Dick Creek drainage and adjacent drainages provide yearlong moose habitat. These willow bottoms and additional adjacent riparian habitat comprise the estimated 2,250 acres of moose crucial winter range occurring in the analysis area.

Trend

Population densities throughout the Forest are low. The Dubois herd uses this analysis area as well the whole upper Wind River drainage. This herd unit is slightly above objective with a current estimate of 520 moose.

Brewer's Sparrow

Habitat

Breeding habitat for this small sparrow is strongly associated with sagebrush over most of its range, in areas with scattered shrubs and short grass. It prefers areas dominated by shrubs rather than grass and sites with high shrub cover and large patch size, but thresholds for these values not quantified (Knopf and Rotenberry 1995 cited in NatureServe 2002). It is strongly associated throughout its range with high sagebrush vigor (Knopf et al. 1990 cited in NatureServe 2002). One of three Breeding Bird survey routes that occur on the Forest is in the Horse Creek drainage. Brewer's sparrows have been documented to occur in this habitat type during these Breeding Bird surveys.

Trend

It is believed that the three existing breeding bird survey routes are able to adequately monitor the presence / absence and contribute to the statewide population trend analysis for this species. Although there are possible problems with estimates

of population change from Breeding Bird Survey data such as very low abundance, very small sample sizes, and very imprecise results, the Horse Creek BBS has detected Brewer's sparrow every year from 1982-2001 (most current 20 year data). The bird observations have ranged from 3 to 23 during those years with an average of 13.1 individual Brewer's sparrows detected per year. Even given the possible problems with BBS data, it appears that in the Horse Creek analysis area this species current trend has been stable over that last 10 to 20 years.

Beaver

Habitat

Beaver use habitat with a permanent, relatively constant flow of water and accessible foods such as willow, aspen, or cottonwoods and a relatively wide valley with low channel gradient. A small population of beaver periodically uses the willow bottom/riparian vegetation complex in Horse Creek, Burroughs Creek, and Brent Creek areas. This population is typical of ones found on the Forest, namely small colonies or bank dwellers where habitat is suitable.

Trend

Populations on the Forest seem stable (monitoring report 1996), but are probably below historic levels.

Appendix D – Environmental Justice

Presidential Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” was issued in February 1994. This directed federal agencies to consider, as part of the NEPA analysis process, how their proposed actions or projects might affect human health and environmental conditions on minority and/or low-income communities.

Two fundamental questions are posed by the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) to help agencies address these and related factors: 1) Does the potentially affected community include minority and/or low-income populations? And, 2) Are the environmental impacts likely to fall disproportionately on minority and/or low-income members of the community and/or tribal resources?

In answering the first question we used 1990 Census data to examine the minority and low-income populations in Fremont County, where the proposed action would occur. The minority populations for Fremont County represent less than 20.2 percent of the total population for the county. This compares to 5.8% minority populations for the whole of Wyoming. CEQ guidance identifies a minority population as one where either: a) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or b) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population. For this analysis the affected area is identified as Fremont County and the state of Wyoming is used as the geographic reference for the general population. Fremont County meets the second condition. Further investigation of the census data indicates that Native Americans make up 18.5% of the population of Fremont County. It is assumed that a majority of this population is located on and near the Wind River Reservation. For the purposes of this analysis the Native American population on and near the Wind River Reservation is identified as a minority population.

The percentage of persons below the poverty level for Fremont County is 19.1 percent as compared to 11.9 percent for Wyoming. Based upon the known demographics of the county it is assumed that a large percentage of these persons are located on and near the Wind River Reservation. For this analysis this population is identified as a low-income population.

In considering potential environmental justice concerns, we evaluated the potential effects on the Native American population on and near the Wind River Reservation. Given the small size of this project, the socioeconomic effects are insignificant at the county scale. In addition we do not believe those effects will be disproportionately larger or smaller on the population of concern. In summary, we do not believe there are any environmental justice concerns with this project.