

Summary

NPS Winter Use Roving Team Meeting with Fremont County, Idaho

Date: November 8, 2005

Location: West Yellowstone, Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort Conference Room

Present: Tamra Cikatonga, John Sacklin, Denice Swanke

1) Purpose agency/group or NPS gave for wanting a visit at this time:

- share information about modeling scenarios
- answer questions about the planning process and review project history as needed
- discuss cooperating agency needs
- opportunity for dialogue

2) Results of this meeting and/or next steps:

NPS will consider points raised and questions asked similarly to scoping comments.

3) Points raised:

- The County has seen a decrease in the number of rental snowmobile registrations
- The County has seen an increase in the number of snowplanes on Grassy Lake Reservoir, up to a maximum of 22 in one day. There are safety concerns with the operation of snowplanes on the reservoir and on access routes to the site.
- The County has seen increased snowmobile use, particularly in the Hellroaring area, primarily by experienced riders with guides. The belief is that this is displacement of snowmobiles from the parks.
- Need for improved or increased signage by the NPS in the Black Canyon area
- Rock Creek and two other camps along the Grassy Lake road receive considerable use during the winter.

4) Questions asked:

- What is wrong with the temporary plan, i.e. it seems to be working, but are there any flaws in it or changes that should be made?
- Can Fremont County legalize historic use of the Cave Falls area as a turn around point for groomers? Groomers are 12' and cannot turn around at the USFS campground unless modifications are made to natural barriers (rocks, trees).
- Scenario 'C' attempts to address bison use of groomed roads, but bison use road corridors throughout the year, why is the NPS only addressing winter use?

5) Parting Comments

This was a good opportunity to share information.