

Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (WPLI) meeting
February 15th, 2017
High Lakes Wilderness Study Area (HLWSA)
Grizzly Room, Cody Library

The items below are questions that the WPLI group asked Ken and I at the meeting. These questions need follow up and a response sent to the WPLI facilitator Tara Kuipers at tara@tarakuipersconsulting.com.

Q: What does semi-primitive mean?

A: The recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) categories are:

Rural – Altered landscape with natural appearing backdrop. Obvious signing. Motorized travel is common. High interaction among users. Example: moderately developed resorts.

Roaded natural – Predominantly natural-appearing landscape. There is no size restriction. Minimum controls with some restrictions. Evidence of other users is prevalent. Resource modification practices are evident. Conventional motorized use is provided for. Moderate probability of interaction with other users. Example: scattered structures such as power lines, microwave installations, etc.

Semi-primitive motorized – Predominantly natural-appearing landscape. 2,500 acres. There is often evidence of other users. Minimum controls with some restrictions. Motorized use is permitted. Moderate probability of solitude. Example: natural areas outside wilderness.

Semi-primitive non-motorized – Predominantly natural landscape. 2,500+ acres. Minimum signing and regulations. Motorized travel prohibited. High probability of solitude. Some evidence of others. Example: natural areas inside or outside wilderness boundaries.

Primitive – Remote. Three miles or more from motorized use. Unmodified setting. Few signs. No motorized travel allowed. Very high probability of solitude. Example: remote wilderness areas.

Reference: Shoshone Land Management Plan Revision Final Environmental Impact Statement Volume I Chapters 1 through 4, Glossary, Literature Cited, and Index. January 2014, page 8.

Q: Are there any existing concerns of meeting the semi-primitive use standard in the HLWSA? Are there any enforcement or restrictions in place?

A: There have been no concerns identified; current use in winter meets the definition of Semi-primitive; use in summer is non-motorized and meets the definition of Semi-primitive.

Other restrictions include: Summer non-motorized; Lynx habitat and Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU); and grizzly bear Primary Conservation Area (PCA).

Q: How are semi-primitive designations monitored and enforced?

A: Designations are reviewed and applied as proposals are made or projects are implemented; proposals and projects are designed to be consistent with Land Management Plan designations. Designations are not legally enforceable rights or responsibilities; they are standards or guidelines in the Land Management Plan that are implemented as we design projects. They

represent the agency's current thinking. Therefore, employees may depart from guidance documents only with appropriate justification and supervisory concurrence.

Q: Are there set dates for summer and winter seasons?

A: Currently, there are no set dates. This issue is being discussed in Travel Management.

Reference: Rick Metzger

Q: If the HLWSA is not recommended for Wilderness, what existing direction applies to the area?

A: The HLWSA is in an Inventoried Roadless Area. A portion of the HLWSA is in the Primary Conservation Area, Lynx Habitat and Line Creek Research Natural Area. See attached maps.

Reference: Shoshone Land Management Plan Revision Final Environmental Impact Statement Maps

Q: Could a FS person present on Fen/Vegetation/Habitat in the HLWSA in March? Touch base with Bucky or Tara Kuipers to find out exactly what the WPLI group would like to see from the presentation.

A: We have let a message with our Forest Botanist, Kassy Skeen, but have not confirmed yet. Direct contact can be made with Kassy by calling 307-578-5165

Q: Field trip to the HLWSA is scheduled for April 1st – Could someone from the FS, who is familiar with the area join the WLPI group?

A: We will check with the District to see if anyone can be available.

General Notes:

Bert Miller, President of Wyoming Snowmobile Association, has snowmobile use data in the HLWSA.

Game and Fish have an agreement with the Forest Service to stock lakes in Wilderness, with a helicopter, if the lake was stocked previous to 1980. If the lake was historically stocked after 1980, in wilderness, G&F cannot use a helicopter.

University of Wyoming did a snowmobile revenue study five years ago. The study indicated snowmobiling contributes to the Wyoming economy.

Brandon will send Tara a copy of his powerpoint presentation.