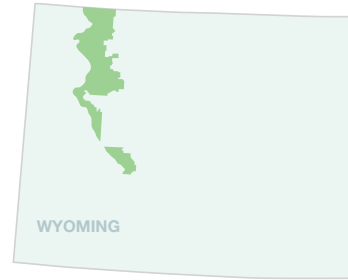


Shoshone National Forest



Lizardhead Peak



Current Issues

Fed Well #26-2

Windsor Energy Group LLC applied to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for authorization to drill one exploratory gas well and construct associated facilities approximately 0.25 mile inside the Shoshone National Forest boundary in the Line Creek drainage, about seven miles northwest of Clark, Wyoming. This proposal has generated a lot of interest, in large part because of other Windsor Energy Group development near Line Creek. In 2006, a Windsor-operated gas well on private land blew out and forced an evacuation of area residents, contaminating local water supplies. During the scoping process, individuals and conservation groups identified the following issues: impacts to municipal water supplies and aquatic wildlife; surface disturbances and impacts from construction and industrialization; public health and safety; air and visual quality; impacts to wildlife habitat; soil disturbance and erosion; insurance and bonding; and recreation. The forest is analyzing public scoping comments and developing an environmental assessment, which will be released this spring. On a larger scale, an increase in requests for energy development, renewable and non-renewable, is anticipated over the next several years.

Forest Plan Revision

In 2005, the Shoshone National Forest began the process of revising its 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan. Between May 2005 and May 2008, 63 public meetings attended by over 1,100 people and 14 Government Cooperators Work Group meetings (open to the public) were held. Over the last two years, the revision process has been slowed because of legal rulings and injunctions. In December, the latest injunction was lifted, and the forest received internal comments on the draft proposed plan. The forest is currently working with the regional and Washington offices to determine how to reengage the public and issue a draft plan later this year.

Headquarters

Forest Supervisor: Rebecca Aus
808 Meadowlane Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414
307-527-6241

Ranger Districts

North Zone District (Clarks Fork, Wapiti, and Greybull)

District Ranger: Terry Root
203A Yellowstone Ave
Cody, Wyoming 82414
307-527-6921

Wind River Ranger District

District Ranger: Rick Metzger
1403 West Ramshorn Street
Dubois, Wyoming 82513
307-455-2466

Washakie Ranger District

District Ranger: Ruth Esperance
333 East Main Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
307-332-5460

Outfitter and Guide Policy

The Forest Service's final directives revising policy governing special uses for outfitting and guiding conducted on national forests went into effect October 16, 2008. Implementation of the new directives may result in reductions of service days for some permits where permittees have not used their allocated days in the last five-year period. The forest is currently identifying which permits will expire at the end of this calendar year and assessing the impact of the new policy.

Forest Health/Fire and Fuels Management

About 1.3 million of the Shoshone National Forest's 2.4 million acres are forested, and the bark beetle epidemic has affected about 35 percent of the forested

acres. Loss of forest products; unnaturally high hazardous fuels levels; uncharacteristically high fire intensities; increased fire suppression costs; higher public and firefighter safety risks; and decreased visual quality are some of the consequences. Addressing forest health has been a forest emphasis area since 2002. In June 2008, the Shoshone's Forest Plan was amended to permit forest-wide application of appropriate management response, allowing wildland fire from unplanned ignitions to accomplish resource benefits forest-wide, when and where conditions are appropriate. Additionally, activities are planned to contribute to long-term ecological restoration and protect watershed health.

Forest Size	Total land area is 2,466,577 acres, all within Wyoming.	
Number of Employees - Permanent	100	
Number of Employees - Seasonal	50	
Average Annual Budget	\$9,936,000	
Elevations	Lowest – 4,600 feet above sea level Highest – 13,804 feet above sea level	
Wilderness Areas	Absaroka-Beartooth Fitzpatrick North Absaroka	North Absaroka Popo Agie Washakie
Wild and Scenic Rivers	None	
National Scenic or Historic Trails	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail Nez Perce National Historic Trail	
National Recreation Areas	None	
Scenic Byways	Beartooth Highway Wyoming Centennial Scenic Byway Chief Joseph Scenic Byway Buffalo Bill Cody Scenic Byway	
Outfitter Guides	74 outfitter guides	
Grazing	76 active allotments on 935,177 acres 74 term grazing permits	
Forest Management and Timber	Timber Volume Sold in fiscal year 2008 – 13,617 ccf Forest Vegetation Improved in fiscal year 2008 – 331 acres	
Hazardous Fuels Reduction Treatments	57,742 acres in fiscal year 2008	

Unique Features or Highlights

- Established in 1891 as part of the Yellowstone Timberland Reserve, the Shoshone is the nation's first national forest.
- The Shoshone National Forest is part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the remaining relatively intact ecosystems in North America. Large expanses of primitive wilderness and back country characterize the Shoshone.
- The Shoshone National Forest is a forest for wildlife, with about 335 native wildlife species calling it home. The Shoshone has more wild bighorn sheep than any other national forest.

Web Address

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/shoshone/>