

Thad Berrett,
District Ranger,
Powder River R.D.
1415 Fort Street,
Buffalo, WY 82834.

Bill Bense


January 20, 2023

RE: Pole Creek Vegetative Management

Dear Thad,

Please accept these following comments as helpful in preparing this and other veg management proposals.

Research and planning around wind prone harvest/management areas is needed prior to project implementation to at least minimize volume and inconvenience of blowdown.

Throughout the BHNF, we see evidence of forest management that has not sufficiently considered the aspect and exposure of timber to prevent significant blow-down and fuels buildup after project completion. If available, apply formulas for timber blow-down loss and access expertise to minimize this problem. Thinning can be tricky, especially with frequency of wind events. Removal of neighbor trees, depending on how much and location, can open up stands beyond the targeted objective due to wind. Johnson Creek Vegetative Management on the Tongue Ranger District can stand as an example of excessive blow-down loss and fuels buildup.

Provide sufficient budget or include contract requirements that provide for blow-down removal on trails and roads that can be implemented even years after project completion.

Vegetative management plans should include the establishment and improvement of ski trails in the Pole Creek area.

All merchantable timber, especially lumber, should be used, sold, to contractors and sawmills. Avoid waste. Nonmarketable trees should be made available for firewood gathering by public and properly handled by contractor to avoid piling with dirt. Firewood piles should be placed in areas convenient to public, if possible. Efforts should be made to minimize slash burning piles.

Efforts to enhance riparian areas and aspen generation is appreciated as a part of this proposal.

Temporary haul roads and skid trails should be closed to public access upon project completion to avoid accustomed use by forest users.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Bill Bense
