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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am against any logging and thinning in any areas that are near the trails in the Pole Creek ski trail system and the 449 non-motorized, Winter area. Both of the areas are loved, used and appreciated by me and many other Winter enthusiasts. I have skied in both of these areas, many times, for over forty years. There is only one other area, on the Powder River Ranger District, that excludes motorized vehicles in the Winter. The "rest" of the forest is open to over snow travel with motor vehicles. And the "rest" is immense compared to the small area set aside for skiers and snowshoers. Any change in the area trees will open the areas to wind and drifting and scouring of the snow. Any change to the trees will esthetically ruin the present beauty that is enjoyed.

I have spent countless hours volunteering at the Pole Creek trails, clearing trails and trying to figure out how to keep snow there. The plans of the Pole Creek Project will completely destroy all the years of work and dollars spent in trying to make this area good for skiing. All this effort has been done to provide a fine Winter recreation area for anyone who wants to come and enjoy it. It has been done with volunteer labor and donations. As avid users of the forest, we Winter enthusiasts have asked for nothing but the use of a very small area. This recreation area has become well known, far and wide. Many people from out of state, and commonly from other counties, travel to enjoy it. These people spend dollars in our surrounding communities.

Wind is a major factor that causes problems with snow conditions in both areas. Since we can do nothing about the wind, we are grateful that it is slowed down by the trees that are growing there. Every single tree matters!! You can do fire mitigation around the two structures and the Highway Camp without hurting the trail system. But any other work will cause irreparable damage to this area, as a Winter use area for skiers, for many, many, many years to come.

If this project is carried out, this will go down as a major "slap in the face" to many, many people who love our forest and have had respect for our local forest rangers. It will do immense harm to local tourism. It will not be forgotten.

I hope everyone involved in the decision making process will consider the negative effects of such a project and decide to

**NOT DO ANY CUTTING ANYWHERE NEAR THE TWO AREAS: POLE CREEK SKI AREA AND 449 WINTER MOTORLESS AREA. I**

repeat: Do NOT CUT ANYTHING except for fire mitigation for the existing structures.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, Mitchell Black