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First name: Brent

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 06/20/2024

United States Department of Agriculture

Powder River Ranger District, Bighorn National Forest

1415 Fort Street

Buffalo, WY 82834

Re: Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project

To whom it may concern:

As a Wyoming resident and Johnson County landowner who has owned deeded land adjacent to the Bighorn National Forest boundary for nearly two decades, I am writing to support the proposed Pole Creek Vegetation Project as timber harvest & thinning, aspen & riparian enhancement of the Bighorn National Forest is welcomed and much needed. However, I agree with the proposed project with the following exception, that all motorized travel beyond FSR 514 (beyond Doyle Creek Campground) be eliminated and should become a roadless area. All motorized travel (including the existing OHV designated trails) should be eliminated, and a locked gate should be placed immediately adjacent to Doyle Creek Campground. This includes the existing OHV designated trail system which begins at FSR 514 and ends at Doyle Creek. The OHV trail system is commonly known as the mainline of the Doyle motorized trail system or Doyle Creek Trail - #147 (including National Forest Trails 148, 147, 143 and 141) and currently traverses through sections 5, 8 and 9 of the Doyle Area OHV trail area. We continue to observe noncompliance to the OHV designated trails with motorized vehicle tracks present on lands which are located outside of the designated trail areas. The existing trail system utilizes a large portion of a relatively small geographic area of the Bighorn National Forest. Much of the Bighorn National Forest is already accessible for use of OHV motorized travel. It should be noted that I do not have a problem with Forest Service personnel using the existing designated OHV trails to perform the proposed aspen restoration or timber thinning, however upon completion of the project, the OHV trails should no longer be used by FS personnel or the public. Wyoming is a unique place that as residents we largely enjoy for its wild and scenic beauty. The geographic area beyond Doyle Creek Campground is small and should be wilder and more scenic. Greater preservation is needed for this area as it provides a much-needed wildlife corridor for elk and is frequently used for calving. It is my hope that we can work together to ensure the Bighorn National Forest will remain a special and unique place not only for ourselves but for our children, grandchildren, and generations to come. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,