

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2023 7:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Nathan Barnes

Forest Service,

I am concerned about the proposed Timber reduction project, specifically within the pole creek cross country ski area. According to the maps provided, the area is within the proposed regeneration harvest area, which i'm assuming means "overstory thinning, clear cuts, seed tree cuts" all of which are very ugly and very counterproductive with the current rate at which the forest is grazed (to dirt). Recreation is everything for the Bighorn National forest and clear cutting the cross county ski area would seem to negatively impact all who use this portion of the forest. There are certainly parts of

the forest, including pole creek ski area, that could use some commercial thinning to clear out some of the doghair lodgepole beneath the larger trees and create a mixed aged stand, but really

theres not much in there larger than 8 inches DBH. When I was skiing in the area last week I went off trail into a thick north slope and saw 5 moose, 3 coyotes, 2 snowshoe hare all sheltering in the thick unthinned north slope, removing these thick sheltered areas takes a tool out of the toolbox for these animals, potentially impacting hunting in the area. Thus my comments are to reduce the use of the clear cut, overstory thinning and maximise the use of selective commercial thinning to make a healthier forest for now and the future and to minimize any activity in the pole creek cross country ski area.

Thanks