

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2023 3:04:55 AM

First name: William

Last name: Dutcher

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am in opposition to portions of the proposed Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project #61834.

As a recreationist who uses the winter trails included in the proposed project, clear-cutting within the boundaries of Pole Creek Nordic Ski Area and Powder Pass #449 would ruin this resource. Wind already scours portions of the ski trails that are not protected by tree cover. Removing this buffer would make it impossible to maintain useable ski trails, thus removing our recreation opportunity there.

To be clear, I am in opposition to the proposed clear-cutting and thinning planned within the boundaries of the Powder Pass Nordic Ski Area and Powder Pass #449. I understand the need for clear-cutting and thinning on Forest Service Land. The area included in the proposed Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project includes plenty of space for these resource extractions without needing to impede on recreation resources already in place.

Volunteers have spent 4000 hours maintaining these trails, a number equivalent to \$100,000 (calculated by the day rate of labor under the Forest Service cost-share agreement with Powder Pass Nordic Club). Proving that the community values these trails and is willing to maintain them for their enjoyment.

Please consider the economic benefits of Pole Creek Nordic Ski area and Powder Pass #449. Tourism is now the second-largest industry in Wyoming and will be increasingly important for Johnson County's own economy in the coming years. Many visitors pass through Buffalo on their way to and from the Pole Creek area spending money along the way on gas, food, gear rentals, lodging, ect.

The non-funded cost-share agreement between PPNC and the Forest Service states "To provide recreation opportunities and create partnerships are two of the primary management objectives identified in the 2005 Forest Plan". Both of these are achieved through preservation of these recreation activities at Pole Creek. This agreement also states that "it is mutually beneficial and in the interest of both parties to work together in a cooperative relationship to continue to provide this service to the public."

Please consider these comments when deciding the future impacts of the Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project #61834.

Thank you