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First name: Jordan

Last name: Aibel

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

USFS Staff -

Good afternoon. My name is Jordan Aibel, and I am a resident of Sheridan, WY. I am writing to comment on the Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project.

I am an avid snowshoer, and a regular user of Pole Creek's nordic trail system. As such, I am concerned about the vegetation management project's potential impact on the trails. I come down from Sheridan through Buffalo to Pole Creek several times each winter specifically to enjoy the trail system. The densely forested nature of the trails, combined with the gently rolling hills, makes for a near-perfect snowshoe experience. The thousands upon thousands of volunteer hours that have gone into crafting and maintaining the trail system over the years is evident. Every time I visit, I see multiple other snowshoers and cross country skiers enjoying the trails.

And multiple times I have brought out-of-town guests to Pole Creek to snowshoe (each time stopping to eat in Buffalo on the way home).

I am concerned that the Vegetation Management Project may negatively impact the trails to the point that they are no longer usable. Without adequate surrounding foliage, the trails risk getting windswept, and would lose much of their appeal. It would certainly discourage me from making the trip down from Sheridan, and make me more inclined to use the trails off of HWY 14 more often instead. As such, I hope that you develop and refine the project plan in such a way that leaves the trail system untouched.

Thank you in advance for considering my comment, and I would welcome the opportunity to both receive updates and provide additional comments as the project planning progresses. My best,

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Jordan Z. Aibel