

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Christy

Last name: Kessler

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to the Forest Service in hopes they will make adjustments to the Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project which proposed a large timber sale along Highway 16 West of Buffalo, which includes the Pole Creek Ski

Area. The area supports cross-country skiing and snowshoeing activities. Without the trees, the ski trails would be unable to hold sufficient snow to groom and ski. At present where there aren't trees near the trails, the snow is easily blown away. Has the Forest Service planned other ways to keep and provide snow for the ski trails?

In the 1970's, our family started using the Pole Creek trails. It was and still is a wonderful low cost family activity where young and old can enjoy the outdoors together. Our children and grandchildren are still enjoying skiing, grooming, and even being able to participate at the Junior Nationals and U.S. Collegiate Ski and Snowboarding National Championships in Lake Placid, New York. It all started at our Pole Creek Ski Area.

It is a great way for locals as well as people who travel from different areas to gather for healthy recreation and benefit our Buffalo businesses. Has the Forest Service thought of other ways to help the Buffalo businesses if the ski area can no longer function?

January 19, 2023, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that it will create a plan to expand recreation

economics to help people thrive across rural America. They won't have to start at ground level in the Northern Big

Horns. The Powder Pass Nordic Club has done it for them if the Forest Service can make adjustments to their plans.

Thanks for your consideration of my proposal.

Christy Kessler