

Kennedy, Kathy - FS, WY

From: FS-Comments-Bighorn
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 10:05 AM
To: Kennedy, Kathy - FS, WY
Subject: FW: [External Email]Pole Creek Project

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Sara Evans Kirol (she/her)
Public Affairs Specialist
R2 Leave No Trace Coordinator
Partnership Coordinator

Forest Service

Bighorn National Forest

p: 307-674-2692

c: 307-683-7019

f: 307-674-2668

Sara.Kirol@usda.gov

2013 Eastside 2nd St.

Sheridan, WY 82801

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

From: robert kessler [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 8:41 PM
To: FS-Comments-Bighorn <comments-bighorn@usda.gov>
Subject: [External Email]Pole Creek Project

[External Email]

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My name is Robert Kessler. My family and I have been enjoying the benefits of the Pole Creek Nordic ski trails for many years. In the winter of 1976 we first skied the trails with our infant sons in plastic sleds pulled with home made harnesses. We watched as the forest grew and the amenities improve.

Having a forested piece of land ourselves, we are aware of the problems facing a healthy forest. We battle mistletoe and bark beetle. Having skied in the winter and participated in trail improvement in the summer, we do not see evidence of these problems. I would ask if a comprehensive survey of this particular unit has been made. The statement that this small portion of trees will not benefit from the proposed forest improvement, is a claim not obviously supported by fact. The fact that this project is necessarily needed is not obviously supported by well disseminated fact.

Viewing the maps associated with this project brings the concern of a decrease in the aesthetic popularity of the scenic grandeur of the vistas on Highway 16. Massive clear cutting would decrease the beauty and adversely effect the livelihood of merchants dependent on tourist trade.

I urge all to consider carefully the effect on the Nordic skiing public and the adverse effect this plan would have on our trails.

