

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/11/2022 8:49:59 PM

First name: DonMy wife

Last name: Kelley

Organization: Dakota Rural Action

Title:

Comments: My wife and I have lived on a small farm completely surrounded by BHNF land for 35 years, providing us a long-term, closeup observation perspective on the neighboring forest. Our impression has been that white spruce chooses more moist locations than Ponderosa pine, and is more likely to inhabit north-facing slopes.

During our tenure at this location, we have witnessed white spruce occasionally being REPLACED by pines, rather than the opposite. We presume this may be a result of locally drying soils. It also appears to us that the spruces are shorter-lived than the pines (on average) in our area.

Having this biodiversity of species seems a good thing for forest and ecosystem health. We would hate to think that a reason for removing spruce might be that the pine is more commercially valuable.

Thank you for consideration of these observations.