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First name: Ben

Last name: Darling

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Pole Creek Nordic scoping objection

2/13/2023

I am writing to object to the omission of the Pole Creek Nordic Ski area from your scoping document as an existing asset.

The loss of this recreational area due to the effects of clear cutting timber and commercial use of existing and new roads would seem to be in conflict with stated goals of the Forest Service.

There is no mitigation provided. Clear cutting and replanting are projected to take 50 years to allow sufficient growth to trap snow for skiing.

Would the Forest Service be willing to find and implement a new winter recreation area with similar grades and snow amounts at the same distance and accessibility to Buffalo? And do so before the loss of the Pole Creek area? Part of the pleasure of Pole Creek Nordic are the reasonable climbs and descents.

By providing protection for the Pole Creek Nordic area as a recreational area the Forest Service would be protecting and could enhance existing assets, assets which have been in large part voluntarily developed.

The number of people who benefit from the use of the area vs those who may enjoy some profit are not proportional.

The timber in question should be available for years, to rush through and not consider preserving or replacing this opportunity for the public to enjoy is short sighted and runs against stated goals of the Forest Service here and nationally.

I like to ski PCN once or twice each season. I use and am familiar with the trails and the area where it is located. To ski there requires a 6 hour drive one way. That represents spending in the Buffalo/Sheridan area that would be lost.

Ben Darling