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Comments: I am writing with my objection to the Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project #61834.

Let's start with big picture objections. In all, the Bighorns are lacking in non-motorized recreation opportunities. Compared to other National Forests, our hiking trails and biking trails (maintained by non-profits like the Land Trust), skiing trails (also groomed, built and maintained by non-profits), and general non-motorized recreation infrastructure is far behind modern public standards and other national forests. The destruction of one of these few areas that we do have, that the community builds and maintains, is a slap on the face to organizations and the public who support nordic skiing and other human-powered recreation.

Now, as it concerns the Pole Creek project, I have read through and understand the various environmental concerns that this project is trying to promote. However, I question out of the million acres within the Bighorn National Forest, why these few acres are of concern. It almost seems to be a direct assault on non-motorized winter recreation and less of a concern of the forest's health.

Pole Creek needs to be a protected winter recreation area.

The NFS has failed to produce scientific evidence as to why this small chunk of forest in question is endangering the rest of the Bighorns. Moreover, it reveals that the Pole Creek project shows an almost painful ignorance of the area. First, it ignores the physical attributes of the area. For one, it is a high-wind area. Taller trees are needed for successful wind blocks for the trails. The plan also shows an ignorance of the local economy. Do we need reminding that tourism is Wyoming's second biggest industry? The ski area has been in place for more than 50 years and brings in economic growth for Sheridan, Buffalo, and surrounding towns. Third, the project shows an ignorant approach to the future of our state's environmental conservation mindset fostered through education. I, for one, use Pole Creek Trails as a place of education for the high school outdoor club.

These trails represent opportunities that have taken entire community decades to build; don't destroy them in one ignorant swoop.