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First name: Sarah

Last name: Flores

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I want to express my deep concerns regarding Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project #61834. I am an avid cross-country skier, science teacher at Sheridan Junior High School, and had the privilege of being the assistant coach for the Sheridan Junior High School Nordic Ski Team this winter. It is essential that we have a wide range of trails for our youth to practice on throughout the winter and Pole Creek Nordic Area is an irreplaceable trail system in the Bighorn Mountains. Compared to the Sibley and Cutler trail systems, Pole Creek offers more gentle and approachable terrain for beginner skiers, as well as a large enough parking area to host races for our junior high and high school teams in the future.

It has been an absolute joy seeing my students get excited about spending time outside in the winter through our growing nordic skiing program. If we were to lose the Pole Creek trail system due to the Pole Creek Vegetation Management Project #61834, it would be a tremendous loss to both the Sheridan County and Johnson County winter recreation communities. I fear that this project will also have detrimental socioeconomic impacts on the surrounding communities, as well as destroy local investments into the Pole Creek trail system which has been operating successfully for over 50 years.

Pole Creek is the first place I ever went cross country skiing ten years ago and I cannot imagine losing such a pristine and well-maintained winter recreation area. I hope you will reconsider the scope and location of this project and instead consider designating Pole Creek Nordic Area as a winter sports area.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Sarah Flores