

March 7, 2016
PO Box 1011
Bellingham, WA 98227



Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team
Colville National Forest, Colville Supervisor's Office
765 South Main
Colville, Washington 99114

Hello Amy and the Forest Management Plan Revision team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Management Plan Revision. As a mountain biker, this plan is of high importance to our organization and mountain bikers statewide.

I'm sure it's not lost on you that the riding experience in the Colville National Forest is stunning and irreplaceable. In fact, I'll be out on the Crest in just a couple of weeks (the first time since having kids!) and I can't wait to help do some trail work and enjoy the world-class riding while we're in your beautiful forest.

The ecological and trail resources make this Forest a unique place to ride, and it is of utmost importance to us that mountain bike access is maintained and improved throughout the implementation timeframe of the next Forest Management Plan.

Thank you on your hard work and thoroughness of the draft plan and preferred alternative. Alternative P is a good solution for both motorized and non-motorized recreational access, ecological integrity, and regional economic resiliency. That being said, there are two unique and highly valued mountain bike trail systems that would be lost due to proposed wilderness designations in Alternative P.

For this reason, we strongly encourage you to implement the following two changes to the Preferred Alternative:

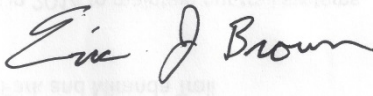
- The proposed Bald/Snow/White wilderness designation eliminates a contiguous Kettles Crest riding experience, as well as connection to Thirteen Mile Trail. Bald/Snow/White should be included in the SIA. This unifies all of the Kettle Crest under one management designation and preserves the unique north-south Crest riding experience, as well as un-interrupted access to the Pacific Northwest Trail. This can be accomplished by changing the Coyote Mountain/Hoodoo roadless area to backcountry or wilderness.
- The Abercrombie Mountain and Silver Creek trails should be removed from recommended wilderness, and instead designated as backcountry, or another SIA. The Abercrombie and Silver Creek loop should be preserved for mountain bikers as this high alpine riding experience cannot be replicated elsewhere in WA.

With the above changes incorporated, our organization can fully endorse Alternative P. It facilitates trail maintenance needs with chainsaws, allows the Kettle Crest to be designated as one uniform management designation, in turn making it easier to promote and market it as a MUST VISIT contiguous geological, ecological, and recreational destination!

Thank you again for your hard work and opportunity to voice our strong support for maintained mountain bike access to the awe-inspiring trails of the Colville National Forest. I look forward to enjoying the trails in the near (and distant) future...hopefully someday with my children too!

Sincerely,

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric J. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Eric Brown
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