

To: Forest Plan Revision Team

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Colville National Forest's Land & Resource Management Plan Revision. My family & friends have enjoyed the wild roadless areas on the forest for many years - backcountry skiing, hiking, mushroom hunting & just enjoying the solitude.

Despite its known habitat & connectivity values for wildlife, less than 3% of the Colville National Forest is currently protected and none is protected in the Kettle Range. Wild roadless areas need to be protected because they provide refuge for many fish & wildlife species, protect solitude, support recreation and benefit local economies.

I have been the manager of the Ferry County Co-op in Republic Washington since 1987. In the past 10-15 years I have seen yearly growth of people shopping in our store - purchasing NE Washington hiking books, asking about places to hike & ski in the Kettle Range. We are also seeing more hikers from the Pacific NW Trail - using the Co-op as a place to pick up packages, food & share stories. Protection of the wild roadless areas on the Colville National Forest is definitely a long term economic benefit to our region.

I am also a public citizen that gave up countless weekends to forest planning & collaboration during the Forest Summit. It was a difficult, arduous process but one thing that was achieved was consensus that people wanted to protect the wilderness values of the remaining roadless areas. Not everyone wanted to call it wilderness granted, but everyone wanted to protect the wild values. Fully 80% of the Colville National Forest is not eligible for recommended wilderness. The 20% that is eligible, the wild areas of the Kettle Crest must be protected.

I urge you to recommend the following roadless areas as wilderness: Profanity, Bald Snow, Twin Sisters, Hoodoo, Abercrombie-Hooknose, Salmo Priest Adjacent, Grassy Top, Thirteenmile and Quartzite.

I support Special Interest Area designations where existing infrastructure will benefit most such as Swan Lake. I oppose this designation in the Kettle Crest.

I also oppose large 100+ person group camps along Albion Hill Road. This would destroy the solitude that makes the Kettle Crest special for backcountry recreation not to mention the effect on wildlife.

I urge you to adopt Alternative B with the addition of restoration & maintenance standards for large old trees.

Sincerely,

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