

11/25/2018

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RE: Interested Person Status request for Colville National Forest Plan process

Dear Objection Reviewing Officer,

I'm writing to file for interested person status.

As an eastern Washington (Spokane) resident for over 22 years, I have long recreated in the Colville National Forest and continue to do so, as well as promote eastern and northeastern Washington's recreation economies.

In my current position with Washington Trails Association, I am a recreation advocate and engage the burgeoning number of hikers statewide on the mission of providing hiking trails for everyone, forever, and of protecting these trails and the wild and public lands on which they are built and maintained. Over several years prior to that, I was able to introduce and engage hundreds of Spokane-area hikers to the Colville National Forest and help engage them in supporting fair use for this incredibly special place, including wilderness designation for magnificent areas like Thirteenmile, Bald Snow, Hoodoo, Profanity and others. The same can be said of dozens of community leaders and business owners, all of whom supported Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition's nationally recognized efforts to create balanced use for the forest that included some vital wilderness areas.

I support a balanced approach for this current CNF plan that has tremendous potential for maximizing the enjoyment of all user groups while protecting the integrity of some areas' wild character. The plan as it is currently addresses some issues, and, with further input and cooperation from all user groups, can be far better.

I participated in previous years' CNF forest revision planning process, in person and remotely. Some of my input is recorded here with the contact ID #621:
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5369047.pdf

Basic points of interest around stated objections are as follows and relate to the Specific Objectors:

- Wilderness (I support expansion of what is proposed)
- Cattle / grazing practices (concerns over damage to recreational trails and displacement of recreational users)
- Recreation Interest Areas
- Motorized recreation
- Non-motorized recreation

- Mechanized recreation
- Non-mechanized recreation
- Backcountry areas

Specific Name(s) of the objector(s) in whose objection I have an interest:

- Northeast Washington Forest Coalition (NEWFC)
 - I fully support the NEWFC objection points.
- Washington State Cattlemen's Association, Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association
 - This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.
- Stevens County Commissioners
 - This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.
- Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners
 - This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.
- Ferry County Board of Commissioners
 - This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.
- Stevens County Cattleman's Association
 - This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.
- Teck Washington Inc., Pend Oreille Operations
 - This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.

I appreciate the opportunity to participate and have my voice and others taken into account during this important process. My hope is that we all have a chance to improve the Plan for the good of communities, recreation and the Forest overall, now and for the generations to come.

Sincerely,

 Crystal Gartner
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