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First name: Cailyn

Last name: Connelly

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cailyn C, Caileen V, and Alexis S.

After analyzing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Colville National Forest Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, with focus specifically on vegetation and invasive species, we have found the following concerns:

*2346 to 2351: In this section, it says that the landscape of the Colville National Forest landscape is natural appearing which then contributes to the desired condition of the forest. However, it later states that while it is hoped to stay mostly "natural", there will be alterations to the vegetation to contribute to the recreational setting. My concern is that this seems contradicting because if keeping the landscape as natural appearing is a priority, then increasing scenic/recreational uses will only subside from that.

*Beginning on line 3671 in order to manage invasive species the forest service expects to use chemical, biological, mechanical, and cultural tools to control or eradicate invasive species. My concern with this proposed action is how using chemical tools would influence the native vegetation as well as sensitive endangered plant species.

oHow will these management strategies affect insects and other animals interacting with the environment? How will you ensure that there will be no drift over effect, where chemicals travel into unintended areas?

*This proposal also calls for preventative measures which includes sanitizing equipment before and after work. The forest service seems to already be stretched thin and implementation or enforcement of this action seemed like it may be put on the back burner since there

*Concern regarding time frame. Over the next 15 years and within 15 years of plan implementation are very vague and don't serve much a purpose. Forest plans should last between 10-20 years. The previous forest plan has been implemented for over 25 years. A more specific timeline with achievable goals throughout should be created to ensure all aspects of the plan will be met in a reasonable amount of time.

*Invasive plants can readily invade trail heads and trails so the increase in recreation in some of the alternatives would allow for the possible introduction of more invasive plant species by tracking seeds and pollen on their shoes and clothing or on their vehicles. It also allows for invasive species having an easier time to become established on the trails.

oIncreased recreation associated with the special interest areas is of special concern, as these areas contain a plethora of flora and will be heavily affected by increased recreational use

*I am concerned with the implications associated with managing the forest in a way that contributes to the "aesthetic settings, particularly along scenic byways and highways (Plan lines 758-759). This seems to imply that human perceived aesthetics will take precedence over natural forest structure. I do not agree with grooming specific parts of the forest to make it more aesthetically pleasing for humans.