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Organization:

Title:

Comments: June 23, 2016

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

RE:Colville National Forest Plan Revision
Wilderness Designations & Recreation Access

I am writing to express my support on behalf of a Recreation Special Interest Designation (SIA) for the Bald/Snow/White area around Sherman Pass, a backcountry designation for the Abercrombie/Silver Creek area and a wilderness designation of the Salmo/Priest.

I am a mountain biker and will be attending the Kettle Fest Mountain Bike Festival in July. This will be my first time traveling to the Bald/Snow/White proposed wilderness area and to those areas north of Sherman Pass. I have heard many good things about the trail system and terrain around Sherman Pass and am stoked to finally make this trip. I have also been researching the practicality of several loops in the area and namely a loop along the Kettle Crest Trail to Ed's Mountain Trail and back up along Sun Peak Rd. This is not a trip that I would likely make in a normal weekend without a mountain bike.

Snow Peak is home of, to my knowledge, the only cabin which can be utilized for backcountry skiing in Eastern Washington. Most of the mountains in Eastern Washington do not have the access or the prominence found in the Bald/Snow/White area. A wilderness designation would make mountain biking and the backcountry cabin illegal and would diminish the recreational value of the area.

I believe that different user groups can make a positive impact on a trail system. I am a member of the Evergreen East Mountain Bike Alliance, a mountain biking organization based in Spokane which has contributed greatly to the quality of mountain biking in and around Spokane. Evergreen shows a strong presence at Kettle Fest each and participates in trail maintenance of the trail system during the event.

To summarize: I am not in support of a wilderness designation in the Sherman Pass Area and the Abercrombie/Silver Creek Area. I am in support of the Salmo/Priest Wilderness Designation

Thank you for your time,

Nathan Hutchens
Spokane, WA
Mountain Biker