

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/6/2016 12:56:47 AM

First name: Bronwyn

Last name: Harris

Organization:

Title:

Comments: COMMENT ON THE COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST REVISED PLAN

Looking at the various alternatives for the Colville National Forest my preference would be Alternative B but I am open to some compromise and I understand Alternative P. My main concerns are the now very obvious CLIMATE CHANGE considerations.

Climate Change is definitely affecting the Colville National Forest. And it is bad. I would hope that the USFS would employ the very best science and the very best scientists and make a supreme effort to decide what is best for the health of the Colville National Forest. That should be foremost. Local economic concerns are important but the forest itself takes precedence because we won't have anything here without the Forest itself. The CNF is really the lifeblood of this area. And if we don't take care of it we will be very sorry.

I would like to see the logging and thinning to be mostly about protecting the future of the forest .We also need to protect the animals of the forest by providing habitat-big swaths of wilderness or almost wilderness that can support the animals such as the lynx and various birds that require lots of undisturbed and roadless space. There are lots of plants in the forest that are also threatened by some activities. This is why I think off road vehicles and ATVs along with dirt bikes and snowmobiles should be very restricted. All of these vehicles can be very destructive and are always noisy (ruining important soundscapes). The vehicles trample on plants, shrubs and baby trees, they kick up dust and the exhaust fumes cause pollution. Snowmobiles present additional problems for the poor moose (who are already having a terrible time with the warmer winters) by compacting the snow which enables cougars to catch the moose easily.

I also believe that the USFS should treat the cattlemen more strictly. From reading this plan I get the distinct impression that the USFS makes suggestions to this group when it should make rules with teeth. (though I understand this group is bullheaded). I really think the grazing along with open range should be phased out. It is so 18th century.

One last thing. Since the Ski area on top of Boulder got all burned up, would it be possible to make the UPPER part of North Sherman Road a non-motorized snow/ski area. Lots of people use it as such already; just that part that comes off of Hwy 20 and goes to Barnaby. When the snowmobiles come through they really wreck it. And they have Albion which is right there. You wouldn't even have to groom it. Just a thought.