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Colville National Forest Plan Revision Team

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Comments to be considered for the final EIS and Land Management Plan:

1. County wide Fire Protection Plans were completed several years ago and were done so as a coordinated effort between the Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources and the Counties. Overlaying the Fire Protection Plan maps on top of the Proposed Forest Plan and all its alternatives, it appears that the Planners didn't even look at these boundaries and what wilderness SIA, and backcountry designations could mean for the people living next to these land use designations. All of these designations are adjacent to some private and state lands. Abercrombie and Quartzite boundaries are adjacent to a lot of private and state ownership, some of the private is industrial forest land but most of it is private individuals. 100% of Quartzite is within WUI and should not be considered for any designation that does not allow for timber harvest and road construction. A large percentage of the perimeter is adjacent to private land with homes close to the boundary. Managing this area with fire is not in the best interest of the Learning center, 49 Degrees North, Chewelah and the Flowery Trail Community Association. The same consideration must be made of Abercrombie PWA, too close to the communities in the Cedar Creek area, Deep lake area, Lone, Metaline and Metaline Falls, all the homes on the east side of the PWA, the Gardener Cave park and the Boundary Dam itself.

2. I have been looking at some of the PWA boundaries on the ground within; Abercrombie, Quartzite, Twin Sisters, Profanity proposals. Abercrombie has the most human disturbance such as skid trails, logging roads, tree stumps from commercial entries, dozer thinning, fire lines, property lines that were run with a dozer and mining exploration with dozers and dug pits. These features are evident and can be found all the way around the perimeter of the PWA and there is significant amounts of these activities inside the original IRA boundaries as well. Twin Sisters and Profanity has the same features in some fashion. With all the errors in the wilderness proposal boundaries that I have found I am confident that the only way to make it correct before it moves forward anymore is to have a complete new transparent look at all the PWA boundaries by a team of local folks who have knowledge of the areas, all 3 county governments would have to be involved in this process. I have attached a map(page 2) of the northwestern section of the Abercrombie area just to display an example of what I have seen.

3. In Chapter 2 page 62 (Forest-wide Direction) starting with line 1665 it says that; " within 15 years of Plan Implementation, designate 45 miles of motorized mixed-use roads across the Forest that would connect with existing motorized use roads identified on the motor vehicle use map to create loop-riding opportunities, connect camping areas, or connect communities with the Forest".

A meer 45 miles!! This statement will preclude any opportunity of including all roads that we might gain in the future unless this is a minimum and if it is it should be stated as such. This section needs to be removed from the document or reworded to eliminate any limitation on the mileage that could be added to or subtracted from the motor vehicle use map in the future.

4. I am opposed to the Salmo Priest wilderness addition, the large section on the west side if there is any possibility of negatively impacting the mining operations that are ongoing in that area to the west that could be expanded to the east in the future. That mining activity is a good source of above average paying jobs that

benefits both Stevens and Pend Orielle counties economically.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Gary R. Nielsen

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