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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Colville Forest Plan Revision - comment

To Amy Dillon and the Forest Management Plan Revision team,

I am attempting to submit comments on the plan but am finding the designated website unresponsive. As an alternative, I am submitting my comments via the attached letter. Thank you very much for all your hard work on the Plan Revision and your careful consideration of my concerns and comments.

Jeff

July 5, 2016

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

Dear Amy and the Forest Management Plan Revision team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Management Plan Revision. I am an avid mountain biker, an occasional hiker, and an eternal lover of everything outdoors. As a mountain biker, this plan is of high importance to me as it will determine mountain bike access for the next 15 years or more.

While I have not yet experienced mountain bike riding on Abercrombie Mountain or the Silver Creek loop, it is definitely on my bucket list. I have enjoyed several days of riding the Kettle Crest trails however and can assure you that they are like no other. In my 17 years of mountain biking, I have traveled to 9 states and 2 countries explicitly for the joy of mountain biking. And the truth is that some of the best mountain biking in the world is right in our Kettle Crest backyard. I hope to preserve this opportunity for future riders and visitors for generations to come.

The extensive trail networks in the Colville National Forest and Kettle Crest offer the critical components required for multi-day mountain bike riding experiences. The region as a whole has great potential to become a national riding destination. This promises low-impact non-motorized trail use and significant economic benefit for communities in Northeast Washington. It is of utmost importance to me that mountain bike access is maintained and improved throughout the implementation timeframe of the next Forest Management Plan.

I commend you for your thoughtful approach and thoroughness of the draft plan and preferred alternative.

Alternative P is a good solution for both motorized and non-motorized recreational access, ecological integrity, and regional economic resiliency. However, two highly valued mountain bike trail systems would be lost due to proposed wilderness designations in Alternative P. For this reason, I strongly encourage you to implement the following two changes to the plan:

? The proposed Bald/Snow/White wilderness designation eliminates a contiguous Kettles Crest riding experience, as well as connection to Thirteen Mile Trail. Bald/Snow/White should be included in the SIA. This unifies all of the Kettle Crest under one management designation and preserves the unique north-south Crest riding experience, as well as un-interrupted access to the Pacific Northwest Trail. This can be accomplished by changing the Coyote Mountain/Hoodoo roadless area to backcountry or wilderness.

? The Abercrombie Mountain and Silver Creek trails should be removed from recommended wilderness, and instead designated as backcountry, or another SIA. The Abercrombie and Silver Creek loop should be preserved for mountain bikers as this high alpine riding experience cannot be replicated elsewhere in WA.

With the above changes incorporated, I fully endorse Alternative P. It facilitates trail maintenance needs with chainsaws, allows the Kettle Crest to be designated as one uniform management designation, in turn making it

easier to promote and market it as a MUST VISIT contiguous geological, ecological, and recreational destination!
Thank you again for your hard work and opportunity to voice my strong support for maintained mountain bike access to these amazing trails.

Sincerely,

Jeff Mack

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