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Comments: CNF Plan Revision Comment--Carol Mack

July 2, 2016

Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team

Colville National Forest

Colville Supervisor's Office

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This submission is my comment on the upcoming Forest Management Plan Revision for the Colville National Forest. I live in Pend Oreille County and have been a regular user of the forest for hiking, mushrooming, birding, botanizing, etc. for over 40 years. I recognize the need to protect our publicly owned land as the national treasure that it is and understand the challenge of protecting this resource in an era of decreased funding.

Rather than endorsing a particular alternative, I would like to ask that any selected option establish a direct link between the amount of off-road vehicle use allowed to the amount of funding available to effectively enforce such use.

I have witnessed severe damage to soil and plant communities and increased sedimentation to streams due to illegal user-created ATV trails-a few local examples are Delaney Meadows (Middle Fork Calispel), North Baldy, and the Diamond City area (Le Clerc Creek). And we have seen many areas where four-wheelers created ruts on soft CNF roads in early spring that later washed out into major gullies creating the need for expensive grading and graveling, as well as environmental damage.

On a different forest I once had the opportunity to witness first-hand how this damage affected streams and fisheries. Our trailhead for a spring backpacking trip was near a meadow where we encountered heavy ORV use. When we returned to the parking area after four days of heavy rain (a soggy trip), the meadow was a mud pit, and road ditches were running with a discharge the consistency of chocolate pudding. We could trace the effects miles downstream. As a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee of our Pend Oreille Salmonid Restoration Team, I know how expensive and difficult it can be to correct this kind of damage and how important it is to prevent it in the first place with adequate enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me with any questions you might have at 509 447-

2644.

Sincerely,

Carol Mack

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