From:	Yvonne Kraus
To:	FS-objections-chief
Cc:	Nathan Hutchens; Will Stone
Subject:	Interested Person Request regarding the Revised Colville National Forest Plan.
Date:	Thursday, November 15, 2018 6:28:48 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to register as an Interested Person for the Revised Colville National Forest Plan. Our primary interests in the objections review pertain to concerns expressed about ongoing mountain bike use in recommended wilderness areas, as well as objections about missing detail related to e-bikes.

Name / Title: Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director
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Over the past 3 years, I have engaged as the primary Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance representative for reviews of and comments/feedback to the draft Colville National Forest Management Plan (the Plan) related to wilderness recommendations and mountain bike use throughout the Forest. Evergreen submitted a detailed comment letter on the draft plan in 2016 (dated July 5th) and engaged a significant amount of its members in plan review and providing comments. We have commended the USFS for the recommendation of allowing continued mountain bike use in recommended wilderness areas. We are specifically interested in objections made to this recommended non-conforming use in the PWA, and believe that the monitoring provisions included in the plan provide sufficient procedure for taking action in case any negative impacts were discovered under the proposed management objective.

Mountain bike use in the recommended wilderness areas does not degrade the wilderness character of those areas, nor does it degrade the trail class on which the activity occurs. The nonconforming use existed prior to these areas being designated as recommended wilderness. Mountain bikers have been riding these areas because of their wilderness character and the difficulty in finding any similar experiences elsewhere in WA State. Mountain biking has had no impact on the wilderness character of the areas, as evidenced by their
designation as PWA's.

We are also interested in any objections made related to ongoing mountain biking as a result of missing information related to e-mountain bikes. Evergreen was instrumental in passing State legislation related to e-bikes and is interested in learning more about the specific objections related to e-bikes, and whether or how they should be addressed in the plan given that the are not currently legal and would not be allowed in Wilderness once designated.

Thank you,

--
Yvonne Kraus

Executive Director

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