**Bobby Whittaker**

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**RE: Interested Person Status request for Colville National Forest Plan process**

Dear Objection Reviewing Officer,

I am an adjacent landowner to the Colville National Forest (CNF), a recreation advocate, and participant at Tri-County Commissioners Forest Plan meetings since roughly January 2017. I am writing to file for **interested person** **status** as the planning process moves to its next phase.

I provided written comment (see below) via the CNF Planning / comment website on 6/27/2016, as well as in person to district rangers and Forest Service Staff.

Collaborative groups, like the Northeast Washington Forest Coalition, the newly formed Pend Oreille Trails and Recreation Collaborative, and Northeast Washington Sustainable Tourism and Recreation Team have played important roles promoting economic growth in our community. These networks and additional partners like Washington Trails Association, Pacific Northwest Trails Association, Backcountry Horsemen, Northeast Washington Trailblazers, Evergreen East Mountain Bike Association, Tri-County Motorized Recreation Association, Panhandle Trail Riders Association, Selkirk Trail Blazers, Student Conservation Organization, Northwest Youth Corps and several others in the outdoor recreation community, have worked hard to diversify our local economies and maximize the Colville National Forest’s potential without displacing existing industry. The Revised Plan, if done right, will greatly accelerate this effort.

Northeast Washington is not only its own community, it is the backyard of Spokane**—**the third-largest metropolitan area in the Pacific Northwest (and growing). The incredible forests, mountains, lakes and rivers of the region have much to offer residents and visitors throughout its expansive mix of public lands. But much of this splendor is underutilized, especially in the Colville National Forest. This is largely due to the lack of well-defined recreational designations that this Revised Plan now attempts to address.

I feel the Plan is helpful in that it addresses a long overdue need for permanent motorized, non-motorized and non-mechanized recreation zones. However, the Plan still needs work to properly balance use. If we work together to fix the plan, all user groups can work to develop, maximize and enjoy large premium areas of their specific interests.

**My general points of interest related to the posted objections are listed here and can be applied in varying degrees to the Specific Objectors listed below.**

* Wilderness (I support expansion of what is proposed)
* Cattle / grazing practices (concerns over damage to recreational trails and displacement of recreational users)
* Recreation Interest Areas
* Motorized recreation
* Non-motorized recreation
* Mechanized recreation
* Non-mechanized recreation
* Backcountry areas

**Specific Name(s) of the objector(s) in whose objection I have an interest:**

* *Northeast Washington Forest Coalition (NEWFC)*
	+ **I fully support the NEWFC objection points. In reviewing all objections I found that the NEWFC objection embodied my sentiments perfectly. I also would like to point out that NEWFC is the most respected, successful and well-established NGO collaboration participating in this planning process. I hope that CNF Staff will prioritize this objection and weigh it accordingly.**
* *Washington State Cattlemen's Association, Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association*
	+ **This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.**
* *Stevens County Commissioners*
	+ **This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.**
* *Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners*
	+ **This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.**
* *Ferry County Board of Commissioners*
	+ **This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness. I am also a constituent of Commissioner Johnna Exner from Dist 1 who authored the objection, and I do not believe this objection is a good representation of Ferry County constituents.**
* *Stevens County Cattleman's Association*
	+ **This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.**
* *Teck Washington Inc., Pend Oreille Operations*
	+ **This objection is in conflict with my support for recreational tourism, recreation interest areas and expanded wilderness.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and remain part of this vital collaborative process. I look forward to working together with CNF Staff and all participants to improve the Plan so that we can realize the potential of the Colville National Forests and our communities may thrive.

Bobby Whittaker

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**As required to establish myself as an interested person, here is my original, formal comment from 6/27/16 demonstrating my past participation in this planning process.**

Date submitted (UTC): 6/28/2016 3:54:41 AM First name: Bob
Last name: Whittaker
Organization:

Title:
Official Representative/Member Indicator: Address1:
Address2:
City:
State:
Province/Region:
Zip/Postal Code:
Country:
Email: misterbobbywhittaker@gmail.com Phone:
Comments:
Colville Plan Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Colville Forest Plan.
I am 49 years old and have been coming to this area and hiking since the age of 10.
In 2001 I purchased 25 acres adjacent to the Colville National Forest in Malo (between Art Creek and North Fork of Saint Peter's Creek road). Over the years I have built 2 houses there and earned a deeper understanding and appreciation of the region and the importance the Colville National Forest plays on many levels.
I am a frequent hiker and skier of the forest next to my property as well as the entire kettle crest, 13 mile and HooDoo canyon just to name a few favorites
I love these areas and ask that you preserve the following roadless / natural areas on the Colville National Forest as wilderness: Profanity, Bald Snow, Hoodoo, Abercrombie-Hooknose, Salmo-Priest Adjacent, Thirteenmile, and Quartzite. And in particular my back yard - Mt Leona...
The wild roadless areas of the Kettle Crest are of paramount importance and must be protected as wilderness. I oppose the proposed Special Interest Area designation because it is impossible to in force and too weak, and request wilderness recommendations for all deserving roadless areas on the Kettle Crest, including at least the Profanity, Bald Snow, Hoodoo, and Thirteenmile roadless areas.
I most like Alternative P for its goals to restore ecological resilience, reduce damaging roads, and increase use of fire as a restoration tool. But Alternative P falls far short in protecting large old trees, watershed health, and wilderness quality lands, and in other areas. As part of the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan revision, I urge you to adopt Alternative P after adding explicit safeguards for large old trees, improving aquatic habitat protections and habitat connectivity, and adding the wilderness recommendations noted above.

I have seen first hand ATV / OHV and cattle damage to these wonderful delicate areas immediately to preserve some of it now before it is too late.
Thank you very much and keep up the good work!

Bob Whittaker
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