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Comments: Colville National Forest,

First off - I like this online DEIS format. I've read over many DEIS's and a long PDF is burdensome. This was much more accessible. One piece of feedback would be in the ArcGIS page, for the "legend" and "alternative list" to be more clearly labeled (it took me a few minutes to figure out how to show the different alternative list).

In regards to my comments, my main concern is increasing wilderness. I've hiked and hunted through much of these forests, and specifically hiked through the Selkirks. While I want to see the forests restored and protected, I don't think congressionally - decreed Wilderness area is the way to go. Many social-ecological studies have shown that the more agency people have in or around their landscape/environment/forests, the better choices they will make and the more empowered they will feel to make good choices. Wilderness designation means there is that much less control of land-use decisions by the people in northeastern Washington. It would be like if you are driving your car down the road, and someone remotely took over your car's computer and you had no control. If there is a fire and we need to see chainsaws or other machines to put it out, we should do that. If there is a road and because of increased flooding due to climate change we need to decommission that road and move it, we shouldn't have to get Congress' permission (and we all know Congress' productivity is at an all time low).

So let me be clear on this point - since fulfilling NEPA includes documenting social impacts - designating more land wilderness would increase my worry and stress because there is less ability to manage the lands by us as Washingtonians. With this in mind, Alternative O would be my preferred.

As far as aquatic habitat I'm not clear how "INFISH" and "ARCS" are different, and I don't have the time to look into the details for how they are different. As long as riparian areas are being protected, I think that's key (which seems to be true of both). Motorized vehicle access and road management seems reasonable as well.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate all the effort ya'll put into the DEIS!

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