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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to voice my support for Alternative B.

I believe that Eastern Washington has too few Wilderness Areas. National Forests such as the Colville have a lower percentage of acreage designated Wilderness than is the norm elsewhere.

I recently visited Thirteen Mile for a hike up the trail toward 13 Mile Mountain. We saw sign of deer, moose/elk, bear, woodpeckers and a variety of birds on a showery day. The geology is unusual, old, rounded, granitic formations cut through by streams. The never-logged forest had a nice selection of various sized Doug Fir, Ponderosa with modest brush in the draws and open meadows on higher south slopes.

I have also hiked the Salmo-Priest and support acquisition of adjacent lands. I plan to join a trail maintenance party there in July and hope to see a grizzly bear on the next ridge over.

These areas may not appear as spectacular as some in the Cascades such as Glacier Peak or the Enchantments, but I find their rewards come as one spends time and becomes familiar. Plus they are closer to the citizens of the east side.

I was heartened to find few if any noxious weeds. I work for the Spokane County Noxious Weed Board and am saddened to see weeds spread through the national forest road system.

In addition, though I do bike, I think it extremely important that more trails be preserved for boots and hooves. I find mountain bike use approaching the level of carelessness and damage produced by motorized off-road vehicles.