

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/6/2016 12:00:00 AM

First name: Greg

Last name: Figg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Greg Figg, and I'd like just briefly to say how I use the forest. Our family has owned property in Pend Oreille County in the lone area since 1971, and I have used it for the last 20 years up there as a property owner in Pend Oreille County.

I do like alternative P. I like most of P, 9 which is the Preferred Alternative. I personally have used the forest, primarily, we hike in the forest, and we also snowmobile in the forest in the winter, and have done some motorcycling and ATV riding also up there, but, primarily, snowmobiling and hiking is what I use it for. I like alternative P as it continues the snowmobile trails in the Kings Lake and Pau Pac area, and that would be in the general restoration and focused restoration area, and would like those uses to certainly continue and not be excluded.

I do have a -- well, a couple of other things to mention, too, is the snowmobiling consists of on-trail usage and off-trail usage where the trail allows, so I guess it would be referred to as cross-country travel, and that that also be continued to be allowed in those areas as is today.

The areas of concern I do have is, being a resident -- or not a resident, but a property owner and part-time resident up by lone, I certainly watched the Baldy fire start from a wisp of smoke last year to a major forest fire, and my concern with the wilderness is it being so close to the towns of Metaline and Metaline Falls is with a prevailing wind coming out of the west/southwest it certainly would be disconcerting to see a fire start there and move into town. I mean last year, thankfully, there was no wind, otherwise the situation I think would have been a lot more catastrophic. It was just -- it happened on a calm day, but it's not always that way. So that's my main concern.

Also I'm concerned about, I've seen those towns struggle up there, you know, resource-based in lone, Metaline and Metaline Falls, that tourism is an important aspect, and the wilderness designation certainly prohibits a lot of use except for foot travel. So, that is a concern I have.

And, lastly, I see the back country designation up there by the Pau Pac area, as we refer to it, and, hopefully, that will continue to allow motorized uses where they exist today. Thank you.