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Comments: Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team

Colville National Forest, Colville Supervisor's Office

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Dear Ms. Dillion and the Forest Management Plan Revision team,

I enjoy mountain biking, hiking and camping on our National Forrest lands. As a mountain biker, the Colville National Forest Management Plan Revision is of high importance to me. I have ridden my bike in the Kettle Crest area numerous times and summited Mount Abercrombie last fall for the first time. They have all been wonderful rides. The extensive trail networks in the Colville National Forest offer awesome remote mountain bike riding experiences that are available in few areas. I hope that we can preserve this access and provide the opportunity to others.

I plan to meet other mountain bikers from Washington and Idaho this summer to share the Kettle Crest mountain biking experience. The Colville National Forest has the potential to become a national riding destination. The low-impact non-motorized trail use can provide significant economic benefit for communities in Northeast Washington. The ecological and trail resources make this Forest a unique place to ride, and it is of utmost importance to me that mountain bike access is maintained and improved throughout the implementation timeframe of the next Forest Management Plan.

Thank you for your thoughtful approach and thoroughness of the draft plan and preferred alternative. Alternative P is a good solution for both motorized and non-motorized recreational access, ecological integrity, and regional economic resiliency. However, two highly valued mountain bike trail systems would be lost due to proposed wilderness designations in Alternative P. For this reason, I strongly encourage you to implement the following two changes to the plan:

*The proposed Bald/Snow/White wilderness designation eliminates a contiguous Kettles Crest riding experience, as well as connection to Thirteen Mile Trail. Bald/Snow/White should be designated as a Recreation Special Interest Area. This unifies all of the Kettle Crest under one management designation and preserves the unique north-south Crest riding experience, as well as uninterrupted access to the Pacific Northwest Trail. This can be accomplished by changing the Coyote Mountain/Hoodoo roadless area to backcountry or wilderness.

*The Abercrombie Mountain and Silver Creek trails should be removed from recommended wilderness, and instead designated as backcountry, or another SIA. The Abercrombie and Silver Creek loop should be preserved for mountain bikers as this high alpine riding experience cannot be replicated elsewhere in Washington.

With the above changes incorporated, I fully endorse Alternative P. It facilitates trail maintenance needs with chainsaws, allows the Kettle Crest to be designated as one uniform management designation, in turn making it easier to promote and market it as a highly recommended contiguous geological, ecological, and recreational destination.

Thank you again for your hard work and opportunity to voice my strong support for maintained mountain bike access to the awe-inspiring trails of the Colville National Forest.

Sincerely,

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