

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/22/2016 8:07:15 PM

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Comments:

Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team

Colville National Forest, Colville Supervisor's Office

765 South Main. Colville, Washington 99114

Dear Amy and the Forest Management Plan Revision team,

Mountain biking is low-impact non-motorized trail use and represents a significant economic benefit for communities in Northeast Washington. It is very important to me that the next Forest Management Plan continues to allow access for mountain bikers. The trails in the Colville national forest are unique in terms of both the natural beauty and the opportunity for multi day rides.

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 included in the SIA. This unifies all of the Kettle Crest under one management designation and preserves the unique north-south Crest riding experience, as well as un-interrupted 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 WA.

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 MUST VISIT contiguous geological, ecological, and recreational destination!

Thank you again for considering mountain bikers when you finalize your plans!

Sincerely,

Morgan Heater