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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in regards to the upcoming Forest Management Plan Revision for the Colville National Forest. I am a regular user of all types of our resources (wilderness area, national forest, etc.) for hiking, mountain biking and climbing. I've noticed over the years that many of our potential recreation areas are being converted to wilderness areas. While I do believe we should have some land set aside as wilderness areas, this type of designation is highly restrictive and only allows a small portion of potential users to enjoy the land. I feel we already have a sufficient quantity of wilderness areas in our state. When I want to go on a hike I have hundreds of trails to choose from. As a mountain biker, the list is a tiny fraction.

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. This type of riding is extremely rare in Washington and I would hate to see it go.

With the above changes incorporated, I fully endorse Alternative P.