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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Plan should balance needs for increased trail access and wilderness

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Dear Colville National Forest Plan Revision Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised Colville National Forest Plan.

As a hiker, I believe this plan will be very important to creating a sustainable future for outdoor recreation in Northeastern Washington.

I have many friends in the Spokane area that would love to hike more of the Colville National Forest, but there are not enough maintained trails. I volunteer my time and labor to maintain trails in Washington State and I am looking for opportunities to work in the Colville. Please increase the target of annual maintenance to 50% of the trails.

In general, I support the Forest's Preferred Alternative (Alternative P) because of its goals to protect the area's ecological health while balancing recreation needs. However, I believe it falls short in providing enough recreation resources.

Hikers like me would like to see more areas that include nonmotorized trails and that these trails, as well as the roads that lead to them, are well maintained.

I would like the final plan to include increased recommendations for wilderness designation. The areas that should be considered for wilderness protection include Bald Snow, Abercrombie Hooknose and Quartzrite Inventoried Roadless Areas as well as Thirteenmile & Cougar Mountain, Grassy Top, and Hall Mountain.

Sincerely,

Janice Van Cleve