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Title:

Comments: Trails and forest conservation bring local economic resiliency

Michael Medved

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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.

One of the reasons our family moved to Washington twenty years ago (from Southern California) was the magnificent environment and the unparalleled opportunities for outdoor recreation.

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.

Like many other hikers, I would prefer to see more areas that include non-motorized trails and would hope to insure that these trails, as well as the roads that lead to them, are well maintained.

I would also strongly urge that 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,

Michael Medved