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Comments: Trails are essential to local economic resiliency

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

What does the Washington State's Legislature report on recreation mean to our local economy? 21 BILLION dollars and 100,000 jobs is to be respected and supported. And this is just Washington State! The West is a destination for world travels and they want to see our 'wild areas' just as much as the locals do. Recreation and access to our wild areas is essential and should be supported on a state, local and national level...Supporting WTA and trails it's about the economy, besides serving as one of the best stress relievers there is in this busy and wound-up world today.

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 non-motorized 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 Hook and the Salmo Priest Adjacent Inventoried Roadless Areas as well as Thirteenmile & Cougar Mountain, Grassy Top, Hall Mountain and Quartzrite Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Happy Trails

John Willett