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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Increase trail access in Colville National Forest

Brian Call

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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.

We're seeing an increase in people building in/near forests and parks. Increasing geological, political, and social concerns are pushing people back to nature, but not for the same reason that hikers like you and I go back to nature. These people are motivated by selfishness and intend to build multi-million dollar city dwellings in our most prized areas. Restricting motor vehicle use will help limit access to those who are there for the right reasons. Building more trails, and maintained roads that lead to them, will help protect the environment in the long run. Poorly maintained access roads and trail heads lead to people parking in ditches or grassy areas where toxic chemicals don't have any chance of being diluted before running into the streams and aquifers that supply us with water. Well-maintained trails help prevent erosion and make it obvious when new trails start to form.

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

Sincerely,

Brian Call