

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/25/2016 6:15:07 PM

First name: Jeff

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Trails are essential to local economic resiliency

Jeff Martin

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June 25, 2016

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.

The pressures facing our natural environment are dramatically increasing as the number of people living in Washington state is also increasing. It is our duty to take immediate action to preserve it for future generations. We must take the long view in our approach to conserving our natural spaces and protect as much as possible by designating these areas as "wilderness".

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,  
Jeff Martin