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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Increase trail access in Colville National Forest

Kevin Govan

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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 Washington.

I have been backpacking and hiking since before I could walk (OK I was carried in a baby backpack) and I have continued to explore the wonderful outdoors of Washington well adult life. As an Eagle scout, I have more fond memories of spending time in State and national parks than just about any other type of activity, and I wish for my children some day to have the same opportunities. Please continue to expand support for parks like the Colville national forest, where my long-time family friend Jake Wilson works with the Forest service to protect the wilderness surrounding his home town and to keep it beautiful and accessible for generations to come.

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,

Kevin Govan