

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/25/2016 4:55:03 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Trails are essential to local economic resiliency

Eric Burr

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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.

I'm a retired Wilderness ranger living in the Methow headwaters above Mazama, so although I seldom visit the Colville I belong to WTA and have published a book SKI TRAILS AND WILDLIFE: Toward Snow Country Restoration, along with related magazine articles. Using trails as management tools is my best idea for wildlife habitat restoration. Build them, maintain them, and people will follow them, according to their degree of user friendliness.

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,

Eric Burr