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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Trails are essential to local economic resiliency

Mary Ellen Gaffney-Brown

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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.

As a native Californian, I hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, Yosemite & King's Canyon Trails. My husband & I chose to make Spokane our home 37 years ago. We have been blessed with 4 daughters who grew up hiking & camping in our beautiful, bountiful Northeastern Washington forests. As an attorney, I represented machinery equipment manufacturers whose forest machinery was misused by Forest Service Road contractors. I saw first hand what long term damage was caused by lack of oversight with careless contractors interested only in clearing timber and resulting profits.

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,

Mary Ellen Gaffney-Brown