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Title:

Comments: Input on revised Colville Forest Plan

Sarah Marsh

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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.

As our population grows here in Washington, we need to increase the amount of wilderness area responsibly available to hikers. This requires roads that are accessible to all passenger cars, not just the more expensive SUVs. It also requires more land set aside, so that the existing areas are not destroyed by overuse.

I am always amazed by the diversity of hikers I see on the trail. Our wilderness areas attract use by all people and ages, races and genders. Everyone can find solace and inspiration in our wilderness areas. It is a rejuvenating place. More and more, people are moving to our beautiful state to take advantage of our green mountains and forests that are readily accessible from our cities and suburbs. This will require responsible management and growth.

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.

Thank you for your time

Sarah Marsh