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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hikers want non-motorized recreation opportunities in Colville National Forest

Bill Yake

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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, morel forager, supporter of endangered wildlife, and native of Spokane I believe this plan will be very important to creating a sustainable future for outdoor recreation in Northeastern Washington.

We have relatives throughout NE WA -- Curlew, Kettle Falls, Deer Park and Spokane -- and visit them and the Colville Forest regularly. One of these relatives does contractual map work for the forest. A special interest is determining the distribution of butterflies throughout the state -- including the relatively poorly canvassed Colville NF.

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 Hooknose and Quartzrite Inventoried Roadless Areas as well as Thirteenmile & Cougar Mountain, Grassy Top, and Hall Mountain.

Sincerely,

Bill Yake