

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/25/2016 10:55:31 PM

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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Plan

Martin Barney

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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 spend over one hundred days a year in the forests and wilderness areas of Washington State. Living in Anacortes, I always make a multi-day trip to the areas in and around the Colville National Forest. I actually prefer this part of the state as I grew up in the intermountain west, which has similar forests.

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,

Martin Barney