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First name: Greg

Last name: Jablonski

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Plan should balance needs for increased trail access and wilderness

Greg Jablonski

1415 E Republican St

Seattle, WA 98112

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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.

Washington's outdoors contains some of the most spectacularly beautiful places in the country. I never even knew these existed until I moved to Washington 8 years ago. As population grows and more people realize this, natural areas get more stressed by use, and need more protection to preserve their beauty and charm.

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 Quartzite Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Sincerely,

greg jablonski