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First name: Karen

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Increase trail access in Colville National Forest

Karen Thomas

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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.

I want to see an increase to the number of areas which include non-motorized trail mileage and trail maintenance efforts to help the forest adapt to increased demand, especially given that Washington expects 2 million more new residents by 2020. Motorized vehicles on trails destroy natural habitat and disrupt wildlife.

The forest requires more wilderness areas to meet growing demand to protect wildlife habitats and ecosystems in addition to providing wilderness recreation experiences.

In order to keep the forest accessible for everyone, we hope to see roads leading to recreation areas maintained for passenger car use.

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,

Karen Thomas