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First name: Susan

Last name: Hurst

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on the Colville Forest Plan

Susan Hurst

P.O. Box 1512

Port Orchard, WA 98366

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 older hiker, I believe this plan will be very important to creating a sustainable future for outdoor recreation in Northeastern Washington.

I am not disabled but am an older person that cannot hike long distances nor can I hike difficult terrain like I used to be able to do. But I always want to have the opportunity to walk a mile or two into unblemished forests such as the Colville National Forest and access to the Colville NF area is only available to me if the roads leading up to them are accessible via car.

My husband and I have spent many many hours exploring the NF back roads and trails in WA. Now when we travel the roads and we see a particularly inviting trail, we park and then hike until we start to get tired. It is always a joy to see the wilderness and without the maintained backcountry roads we would not have the opportunity to enjoy the wilderness experience.

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,

Susan Hurst