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Organization:

Title:

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

Fred Ramalho

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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.

Our pristine natural areas are one of America's greatest resources; we should not squander this precious asset, rather preserve and relish this great gift in its natural state as much as possible. An increasingly obese America would do well to support a responsible and respectful return to the outdoors, finding our roots again as people who love, live and play in the great outdoors.

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,

Fred Ramalho