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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Colville Plan Comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Colville Forest Plan.

I am 49 years old and have been coming to this area and hiking since the age of 10.

In 2001 I purchased 25 acres adjacent to the Colville National Forest in Malo (between Art Creek and North Fork of Saint Peter's Creek road). Over the years I have built 2 houses there and earned a deeper understanding and appreciation of the region and the importance the Colville National Forest plays on many levels.

I am a frequent hiker and skier of the forest next to my property as well as the entire kettle crest, 13 mile and Hoodoo canyon just to name a few favorites

I love these areas and ask that you preserve the following roadless / natural areas on the Colville National Forest as wilderness: Profanity, Bald Snow, Hoodoo, Abercrombie-Hooknose, Salmo-Priest Adjacent, Thirteenmile, and Quartzite. And in particular my back yard - Mt Leona...

The wild roadless areas of the Kettle Crest are of paramount importance and must be protected as wilderness. I oppose the proposed Special Interest Area designation because it is impossible to in force and too weak, and request wilderness recommendations for all deserving roadless areas on the Kettle Crest, including at least the Profanity, Bald Snow, Hoodoo, and Thirteenmile roadless areas.

I most like Alternative P for its goals to restore ecological resilience, reduce damaging roads, and increase use of fire as a restoration tool. But Alternative P falls far short in protecting large old trees, watershed health, and wilderness quality lands, and in other areas. As part of the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan revision, I urge you to adopt Alternative P after adding explicit safeguards for large old trees, improving aquatic habitat protections and habitat connectivity, and adding the wilderness recommendations noted above.

I have seen first hand ATV / OHV and cattle damage to these wonderful delicate areas and ask you act immediately to preserve some of it now before it is too late.

Thank you very much and keep up the good work!

Bob Whittaker

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