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First name: Maarten

Last name: van Dantzich

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I am commenting on the Draft Colville Forest Plan.

I have long wanted to come to the Kettle Crest area to see this part of the state, and bring my mountain bike to ride trails that are known to be some of the best recreational backcountry riding in our state.

I understand that the favored resolution, Alternative P, will exclude cyclists from several highly valued trails. I urge you to reconsider this plan.

Opportunities for mountain biking in true backcountry settings are limited in our state, and each new Wilderness area that closes trails further limits those opportunities. At the same time, mountain biking is growing in popularity, especially among younger people.

This does not imply that the Colville will ever experience heavy cycling traffic. Its remoteness from major population centers guarantees that the number of people venturing out will always be modest and appropriate for its backcountry character.

I would support Alternative P if it were modified to use an SIA designation for trails such as the Abercrombie Peak and Silver Creek loops. Please collaborate with the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance as a serious partner interested in protecting natural areas for recreation.

I believe mountain biking is a healthy, human-powered way to engage with nature and the backcountry, and we should preserve opportunities to do so for rising generations. Please choose land designations that continue to allow cycling on the Colville. I look forward to visiting!

Thank you,

Maarten van Dantzich
Seattle, WA