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Comments: I started riding the Kettle Crest trails and joining volunteer work parties over a decade ago. It is one of the most amazing places to ride, camp and recreate in WA state. It would be a real pity to have any of these trails shut down to mt biking. Overall alternative P is pretty well thought out and I appreciate all the work that has gone into this plan. But I strongly feel that several trails should be removed from the recommended wilderness area so they can stay open to mountain bikes and can be maintained efficiently with tools such as wheel barrows and chainsaws which are all prohibited in wilderness areas. These areas should instead be designated as recreation (SIA) or backcountry areas.

The first area is the recommended wilderness area south of Sherman Pass that would impact part of the Kettle Crest trail. That entire trail is very unique for mt bikers. The Bald/Snow/White recommended wilderness designation should be changed to be included in the SIA. This unifies all of the Kettle Crest trail and preserves the unique north-south Crest riding experience, as well as uninterrupted access to the Pacific Northwest Trail.

The 2nd area is the Abercrombie Mt and Silver Creek trails. These make up one of the few high alpine trail opportunities for mt bikers in WA state. With the low usage these trails get every year and mt biking trail systems closer to population centers getting more and more overcrowded, it's a real opportunity to keep such an extremely rare and awesome mt biking experience around for future generations.

With the above changes, I would fully support Alternative P. I look forward to riding and volunteering in the Colville National Forest and Kettle Crest area for years to come.

Thanks,

Mike Westra