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Comments: Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team

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Dear Amy and the Forest Management Plan Revision team,

As a mountain biker, hiker, and environmentally concerned person, I appreciate what a unique and special place Washington is. It is unfortunate, however, that enjoying nature by bike is increasingly restricted - sometimes without intention to do so.

The extensive trail networks in the Colville National Forest offer the key ingredients required for multi-day mountain bike riding experiences, experiences that do not have a negative impact on wild life. The mountain bike community, especially that part that rides in these more remote areas, is the epitome of what is considered stewards of the environment. I mean that sincerely, and hope it is obvious - despite what some misguided groups argue. The next Forest Management Plan is critical to maintaining the resources brought to the region by the mountain bike community, which enable our wild areas to be enjoyed by those not on two wheels as well.

I appreciate the consideration the revision team has given to maintaining many of the areas currently open to wheeled recreational use, and, with two modifications, Alternative P would be an ideal solution.

The Silver Creek and Abercrombie Mountain trails should be designated as backcountry, or a SIA, to preserve a high alpine ride that cannot be replicated.

Unifying all of the Kettle Crest under one a recreational SIA designation for human powered biking preserves the essential contiguous North to South Kettle Crest riding experience and access to the Pacific Northwest Trail. This can be accomplished by balancing the creation of the SIA with designation of the Coyote Mountain/Hoodoo roadless area to backcountry or wilderness.

Washington is a special place, one that is managed sustainably, and because of this has a draw to many people from around the world. With the above modifications Colville National Forest becomes cemented as one of the best riding experiences a mountain biker can have. It is this type of riding that forms an experiential basis for recognizing the importance of our natural world.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the revision process, and thank you for smart management of a precious resource.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Sotak