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Title:

Comments: I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Colville National Forest personnel in maintaining recreational access on our public lands and commend them on their continued efforts to ensure American citizens fully benefit from these regions that have been set aside for our use.

As a member of the Colville National Forest's volunteer OHV Ambassador Program, I've witnessed firsthand the successes of the South End Project - opening up roads to OHV use has dramatically increased tourism in the local area, resulting in less off-road damage, and has also increased safe and legal use of MVUM-approved roads in the Colville National Forest. Distribution of MVUMs through the Ambassador Program, informational USFS kiosks, and through the nationwide Avenza software program have provided low-cost and effective solutions to any concerns of off-road damage to the Colville National Forest lands.

The statistics provided by OHV Ambassador Program events within the Colville National Forest have shown positive response to the established MVUM from all users - hikers, bikers, motorcyclists, horseback riders, and all vehicle users. We've seen a dramatic increase in use by handicapped and elderly persons desiring access to their public lands for recreation - the OHV routes currently on the MVUM are providing for a wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities for all of our citizens.

The proposed changes to the current MVUM and Forest Plan attempt to categorize the entire Colville National Forest as a single entity - this is not logical, nor scientific, and cannot be effective management tools as a result. The Colville National Forest is not a single geologic, geographic, or ecologic entity, and cannot be managed as such. For example, the presence of copper in the Southeast quadrant of the forest provides a dramatically different ecological management problem, as compared to the presence of lead and uranium in the Northeast quadrant. The clay soils of the river bottoms provides a dramatically different environment for both plants and animals, than the dry, sandy, rocky glacial till of the upper forest slopes - attempting to manage forest health in a unified program for the entire forest does not allow effective local management of local issues.

Because of these concerns, I support the No Action Alternative - the current Forest Management Plan adequately addresses the needs of all users of public lands within the Colville National Forest, and provides for effective local control and management of our forests.

Thank you for your efforts in providing our citizens with continued access programs for our public lands within the Colville National Forest, and for providing for effective management of these lands!

Anne E. Ott