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Comments: Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team

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Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. While I am writing in my individual capacity, I am an active mountain biker and hiker who has the perspective of serving in various relevant capacities, including former president of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association and the Forks Chamber of Commerce and current volunteer trail maintainer of the Olympic Discovery Trail.

We live on Washington's North Olympic Peninsula, but spend as much time as possible traveling to destinations with outstanding mountain biking opportunities. We enjoy traveling to areas such as Rossland, BC, for example, where mountain biking and other healthy, low-impact activities are the focus of the entire community.

We see the Colville National Forest as having similar potential as a world class mountain biking destination--especially with the implementation of a Forest Management Plan Revision that allows the riding experience in the CNF to continue to be outstanding.

While we have not ridden extensively in the Colville National Forest, we plan to return for further exploration. It has all of the necessary components for a unique riding experience that cannot be found elsewhere.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Forest Management Plan Revision. Alternative P is a good solution for both motorized and non-motorized recreational access, ecological integrity, and regional economic resiliency. However, two highly valued mountain bike trail would be lost due to proposed wilderness designations in Alternative P. For this reason, we strongly encourage you to implement the following two changes to the plan:

1. The proposed Bald/Snow/White wilderness designation eliminates a contiguous Kettles Crest riding experience, as well as connection to Thirteen Mile Trail. Bald/Snow/White should be included in the SIA. This unifies all of the Kettle Crest under one management designation and preserves the unique north-south Crest riding experience, as well as un-interrupted access to the Pacific Northwest Trail. This can be accomplished by changing the Coyote Mountain/Hoodoo roadless area to backcountry or wilderness.
2. The Abercrombie Mountain and Silver Creek trails should be removed from recommended wilderness, and instead designated as backcountry, or another SIA. The Abercrombie and Silver Creek loop should be preserved for mountain bikers as this high alpine riding experience cannot be replicated elsewhere in WA.

With the above changes incorporated, we fully endorse Alternative P. It facilitates trail maintenance needs with chainsaws, allows the Kettle Crest to be designated as one uniform management designation, in turn making it easier to promote and market it as a MUST VISIT contiguous geological, ecological, and recreational destination!

Thank you again for the opportunity to voice our strong support for maintained mountain bike access to the awe-inspiring trails of the Colville National Forest.

Sincerely,

Erik & Cari Rohrer