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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Colville Forest Plan Revision Comment

July 5, 2016

Dear Colville National Forest Plan Revision Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised Colville National Forest Plan.

I have some concerns in regarding adding more Wilderness areas in Colville National Forest.

In general, I support the Forest's Preferred Alternative (P). In my youth, I spent a lot time in The Priest Salmo area swimming, hunting and fishing. In the 1970's I picked up maps from Sullivan Lake Ranger Station with mileage, camp sites, pictures, joining trails of 15 trails for our recreational opportunity of over 84 miles. Then in the 80's some of these trails were no longer accessible so I volunteered to help clear trails on public lands, averaging 100 hours a year ever since. In 2009, 5 of these trails were cleared by volunteers. Out of the 15 trails to date there is only one trail #526 that has been cleared but needs 5 puncheons replaced to finish, which is going to be done with grant monies and a collaboration of volunteers sometime this year or next. My point is, we have lost our access to the existing Wilderness area with no provisions to maintain trails. Why would the Forest Plan consider proposing more Wilderness areas when the public has limited use on the existing Priest Salmo Wilderness for their recreational opportunities?

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Harshman, 985 Johnston Way, Colville, WA 99114