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Comments: Comment on Colville National Forest Plan Revision

Rodney Smolden and the Forest Plan Revision Team,

Thank you for letting me comment on the Colville National Forest Management Plan. I live in Newman Lake near Spokane, and I recreate year round on the Colville NF. I regularly hike, backpack, snowshoe and snow camp in both the Selkirks and Kettle Range. Most of my time is spent in the Salmo Priest Wilderness and the Inventoried Roadless Areas where I enjoy the quiet and solitude of the forest and the wildlife within. I firmly believe that these IRA's should be protected and conserved for wildlife and the future, preferably as Wilderness. I do not believe that a Special Interest Area designation is satisfactory protection that is guaranteed in perpetuity.

Of the alternatives provided, I believe Alternative B should be selected. It is a collaborative plan based on public input and varied interest groups in the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition. That collaboration recommends adding 20% Wilderness whereas Alternative P only adds 6%. Alternative P totals 9% Wilderness which is well below the national average of 19%.

At a minimum in the Selkirks, the Salmo Priest Adjacent, the Abercrombie-Hooknose, and the Grassy Top roadless areas should be recommended as Wilderness. In the Kettle Range, the Cougar and Thirteenmile, Bald Snow, Profanity Peak, and Hoodoo roadless areas should be recommended as Wilderness. These will provide a fairly well protected corridor for wildlife.

It is Wilderness and roadless areas like those on the Colville that drew me to move to the Inland Northwest. There is an economic benefit to Wilderness because in my trips to these areas, I regularly spend money in the towns of NE WA on gas, food, and lodging. Like myself, many others look at a map and see Wilderness Areas and think of it as a destination. Therefore, it is important to congressionally protect these areas.

I also believe that motorized recreation should be well managed and minimized due to impacts it can have on the land, wildlife, and those that enjoy quiet recreation in all seasons.

Thank You,

Ken Vanden Heuvel

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