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Comments: Comment on Colville National Forest Plan Revision

Dear Forest Supervisor Rodney Smoldon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Colville National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan Revision. The Forest and its roadless areas are important to me and many other Washingtonians, and they provide a home for many fish and wildlife species. It's important to protect and conserve the Forest for future generations.

Despite its vital habitat and connectivity values for wildlife and cherished recreation areas, only a small fraction of the Colville National Forest is currently protected. Wild roadless areas on the Forest should be protected in perpetuity for future generations of people and wildlife. They conserve critical habitat, preserve wildlife connectivity, support outdoor recreation, and benefit local economies. I urge you to adopt conservation and wilderness measures to ensure a wild, healthy future in northeast Washington.

Please recommend the following wild roadless areas on the Colville National Forest as wilderness: Profanity, Bald Snow, Hoodoo, Abercrombie-Hooknose, Salmo-Priest Adjacent, Thirteenmile, and Quartzite.

The wild roadless areas of the Kettle Crest are of paramount importance and must be protected as wilderness. I oppose the proposed Special Interest Area designation because it is toothless and too weak, and request wilderness recommendations for all deserving roadless areas on the Kettle Crest, including at least the Profanity, Bald Snow, Hoodoo, and Thirteenmile roadless areas.

I most like Alternative P for its goals to restore ecological resilience, reduce damaging roads, and increase use of fire as a restoration tool. But Alternative P falls far short in protecting large old trees, watershed health, and wilderness quality lands, and in other areas. As part of the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan revision, I urge you to adopt Alternative P after adding explicit safeguards for large old trees, improving aquatic habitat protections and habitat connectivity, and adding the wilderness recommendations noted above.

Thank you again for accepting public comments on this important issue.

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