

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/5/2016 11:29:43 PM

First name: Paul

Last name: Turner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Alternative P

Amy Dillon, and the entire Forest Plan Revision Team,

I am writing today in regards to the future of the Kettle Crest trail system. I am an avid hiker, and mountain biker who loves nothing more than the great outdoors. I am concerned about designating parts of the Kettle Crest area as Wilderness, due to the limitations put on recreation and trail maintenance. I would encourage you to research the amount of trail maintenance done by mountain bikers as a volunteer service throughout the state of Washington, in areas such as Galbraith Mountain, Tiger Mountain, Duthie Hill, etc. Also, I think a discussion with the trail planners for the new mountain bike area in Darrington Wa would be beneficial for you and your team. I think you would gain a greater appreciation for the amount of people who are choosing to use bicycles as a tool for recreation and exploration of our wonderful outdoors. Also, you will see that the mountain bike community values our trails dearly, and we are willing to spend our free time working to maintain, and build sustainable trails that will last for generations to come. Speaking of generations to come, another factor for keeping Kettle Crest open to cyclists is the amount kids that are taking up the hobby of mountain biking. It would be a shame if far less people enjoyed the nature of the area due to restrictions, rather than have people participating in a healthy activity appreciating the beauty of the wild world.

For these reasons I support Alternative P, with two slight modifications:

\*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.

\*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.

I sincerely appreciate your team allowing the public to offer feedback in this process, and I hope a plan can be put in place that benefits all of the users of this beautiful piece of land.

Sincerely,

Paul Turner

gpaulturnerjr@gmail.com <mailto:gpaulturnerjr@gmail.com>

