

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/5/2016 8:04:49 PM

First name: Dawson

Last name: Weilep

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comment On Plan Revision

Hello,

I am submitting a comment on the Colville National Forrest Plan Revision to express my concern for the direction the Forrest Service is headed in managing our Colville National Forrest. It is my strong opinion (and the opinion of every single friend and family member I have spoken to concerning the issue) that our National Forrest has been grossly mismanaged for many years now. It seems that the Forrest Service has allowed the voices of environmental groups to persuade them from practicing what the Forrest Service knows are proper management practices. It is so sad that the voices of these radical groups, from out of the area, are manipulating our Forrest Service away from the proper management practices, that the Forrest Service and local community, members know are necessary. Who uses the Colville National Forrest the most? Who relies on the Colville National Forrest for resources and recreation? Who knows how to manage the Colville National Forrest? It is the local community members. We locals understand the benefits of proper management practices, which include logging, grazing, and maintaining access. We understand the benefit of being able to access the National Forrest to hunt, fish, camp, hike, pick berries, pick mushrooms, etc. We understand the economical and recreational benefits that the resources in the National Forrest provide. We rely on the National Forrest for so much and want to see it properly managed. We don't want to devastate the resources or take away the nostalgia of the beautiful National Forrest that we have. We want to enjoy the benefits of the National Forrest responsibly. The current practices of limiting grazing, limiting logging, and closing off access roads is poor management. These practices have increased dead timber, increased brush, grass, deadfalls, and other fuels on the forrest floor, and decreased the benefits that the National Forrest provides. Fire danger has been increased. Fire response efficiency has been decreased. Assets are being wasted. Recreation has been decreased. Huge wild fires have devastated the National Forrest, devastated other public and private lands, and put citizens in danger. This all could be prevented with proper management. I grew up spending much of my time in the Colville National Forrest. I have spent much of my adult life in the Colville National Forrest. I have so many great memories of camping, hunting, fishing, swimming, hiking, riding, picking huckleberries, picking mushrooms, cutting firewood, etc. Much of that time spent with family and friends. I love the Colville National Forrest. I thank God that I have been able to benefit so much from the Colville National Forrest. I am trying to pass that on to my kids and their friends, but the mismanagement by the Forrest Service is making it quite difficult. The Forrest Service needs to get back to proper management practices and educate those environmental groups, and the rest of the public, on why the National Forrest needs to be managed.

We need management, not wilderness!

I would really appreciate your consideration of my comments. I believe they represent the opinion and feelings of the majority of the local community members. Thank you for your time.

Dawson Weilep

Colville, WA

509-680-2318

Djayw34@hotmail.com