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First name: G.

Last name: Meyer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Kettle Crest Designation and Plan

Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team
Colville National Forest, Colville Supervisor's Office
765 South Main. Colville, Washington 99114

Dear Amy and the Forest Management Plan Revision team,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Management Plan Revision. I'm an off-road cyclist and access to this area is important to me. In the last three years, I've spent almost two weeks camping, riding and recreating in the Kettle Crest area. This is my favorite type of riding experience and I really value it as a motivating resource for exploration of a part of Washington that I don't get to very often.

The quality of the trails and the distinct geography of the area make it valuable enough that I drive the more than 6 hours each way to visit. I will pass many other nationally prominent areas for mountain bike riding in order to do this, a testimony to its draw. It also has to be good to keep our traffic for the towns of Republic and Kettle Falls.

I understand that you have to strike a balance between preservation and use and I think that Alternative P is a decent solution for both motorized and non-motorized recreational access. Yet, losing two highly valued mountain bike trail systems with the wilderness designations really limits its value to me. Please consider these changes:

*Bald/Snow/White should be included in the SIA - keeping a contiguous Kettles Crest ride and link to Thirteen Mile Trail.

*The Abercrombie Mountain and Silver Creek trails should be designated as backcountry.

With the above changes incorporated, I endorse Alternative P (to the extent a layperson can...). It allows trail maintenance with motorized tools and allows the Kettle Crest to be used via one management designation. Multiple sets of use rules only disincite people given the difficulties of figuring them out.

Thank you again for the good work in Region 6 and opportunity to voice my interest for mountain bike access of the Colville National Forest.

Sincerely,

W. Meyer

2766 44th Ave SW

Seattle 98116