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First name: Margo

Last name: Locke

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Plan Comment

To: Amy Dillion, Forest Plan Revision Team

Colville National Forest

Colville, Wa 99114

From: Margo Locke

13 Juniper Rd.

Republic Wa. 99166

To Whom it may concern;

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan. My name is Margo Locke, I am a citizen of the United States and have resided in Ferry County for 40 years. I serve on the Tri-County RAC Board, The Board of Equalization, the Planning Commission, and a retired volunteer firefighter. Pg. 23 line 569-571 discuss Woodland Caribou, moose, elk, deer, all sharing the same habitat. Pg. 52 Lines 1381-1396 further discuss woodland caribou.

Comment; There seem to be a number of things pointing to their decline, but no direct mention of Gray Wolves unless that is what line 1394 is referring to when it mentions introduced species. I would not expect my goat herd to do well if I introduce a predatory animal into their midst.

Pg. 68 2178-2179 No prime farmland, rangeland, or forestland as defined by the NRCS has been identified in the planning area.

Comment; There may be no prime farmland within the planning area but there are grazing leases which Ferry County has designated as Agricultural lands of long term commercial significance, and all of the lands presently in Forest classification including Forest Service Lands as Forest Lands of Long Term Commercial significance. Pg. 786 line 26455, provides opportunities for coordination between the Forest Service and the County.

Comment; Which ever plan is chosen it should keep Ferry County's goals in mind
pg 786 line 26463 "focus on agriculture, forestry and mining".

pg 529 lines 18385-18386 Large wild fires are expected to increase over the life of the plan, resulting in an increase in forage.

Comment: This would seem to indicate a need to maintain the grazing permits to reduce fine fuels that carry wildfires rapidly. I would rather see more management in the area of thinning, selective logging and removing excess fuels than having to use resources to extinguish wildfires. There seems to be a need to be proactive instead of reactive.

pg. 657 line 23125 Seems to indicate that there has been some thought given to fuel reduction.

Ferry County has been my home for many years, I have worked on the White Mountain Fire, Copper Butte Fire, Leona Fire, Togo Fire, and was on Standby for anything that might threaten homes during the StickPin and

North star fire. I have seen the fires lay down when they come to clear-cuts and open grazed meadows. Instead of planning for more and larger wildfires we need to take action to make our forests more fire resistant.

I do not support a Wilderness area in Ferry Co., There is already a backcountry area which is basically managed as wilderness .

pg545-546 Discuss Mineral lands lines 19076-19079 It is Forest Service policy for mineral resource management to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of economically sound and stable industries, and in the orderly and economic development of domestic resources to help assure satisfaction of industrial, security and environmental needs.

Comment

Since I have lived in this area Ferry counties natural resource industries have continued to decline due largely to environmental law suits., and unwillingness by the Forest Service to issue permits. There needs to be a balance between the environment and economic needs of the county.

Thank-you for the work and effort that went into writing these proposed plans and the opportunity to comment.

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