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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Colville National Forest

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 wild roadless areas are important to me and my family. Wild areas provide refuge to many fish and wildlife species. It's important to protect and conserve the Forest for future generations. I support Alternative B.

Despite its vital habitat and connectivity values for wildlife and cherished recreation areas, less than 3 percent of the Colville National Forest is currently protected. Wild roadless areas on the Forest should be protected because they conserve critical habitat for wildlife, protect solitude, 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. At a minimum, please recommend the following wild roadless areas on the Colville National Forest as wilderness: Profanity, Bald Snow, Twin Sisters, Hoodoo, Abercrombie-Hooknose, Salmo-Priest Adjacent, Grassy Top, Thirteenmile, and Quartzite.

Fully 80 percent of the Colville National Forest is not eligible to be recommended wilderness. Of the 20 percent that is eligible, 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 in the Kettle Crest.

I support Special Interest Area (SIA) designations where existing infrastructure will benefit most. Please establish SIAs for the Swan Lake and Cougar Area in Ferry County and Calispell Area in Stevens & Pend Oreille County.

I most like Alternative B for its collaborative approach to restore ecological resilience, reduce damaging roads, protect big trees, increase use of fire as a restoration tool, and preservation of wilderness characteristics.. As part of the Forest Plan revision, I urge you to adopt Alternative B after adding explicit restoration and maintenance standards for large old trees.

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

Laurie Kulp