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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hikers want non-motorized recreation opportunities in Colville National Forest

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Dear Colville National Forest Plan Revision Team,

Dear Colville National Forest Plan Revision Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised Colville National Forest Plan.

As a hiker and frequent visitor to the Colville National Forest, I would like to advocate for an increased number of areas which include nonmotorized trail mileage. Hiking is an activity that has few barriers to entry and has relatively low impact on the forest ecosystem. As the population in WA grows and recreation demand increases, I think it is increasingly important that we have abundant and accessible, non-motorized trails so that that demand can be met in a sustainable way.

In general, I support the Forest's Preferred Alternative (Alternative P) because of its goals to protect the area's ecological health while balancing recreation needs. However, I believe it falls short in providing enough recreation resources.

Specifically, I would like to see more areas that include nonmotorized trails and that these trails, as well as the roads that lead to them, are well maintained.

I would also like to voice my support for the final plan to include increased recommendations for wilderness designation. There is an increasing both ecological and societal need for wilderness. I believe the areas that should be considered for wilderness protection include Bald Snow, Abercrombie Hooknose and Quartzite Inventoried Roadless Areas as well as Thirteenmile & Cougar Mountain, Grassy Top, and Hall Mountain.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.

Claudia Hartley