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Comments: Forest Plan should balance needs for increased trail access and wilderness

Jeela Ganje

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Dear Colville National Forest Plan Revision Team,

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

I lived not too far from the Colville National Forest in my early 20s and it makes me so happy to hear that there is an effort to keep the area safe for hikers as well as wildlife. In the years to come I hope to visit and share the area with my family and friends. Washington is a gem in our country, our trees are one major reason why.

As a hiker, I believe this plan will be very important to creating a sustainable future for outdoor recreation in Northeastern Washington. As a cyclist, too, I have been enjoyed rides in the area while friends enjoy walks and hikes.

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. We need enough recreation resources to keep the area attractive to visitors.

Hikers like me would like to see more areas that include nonmotorized trails.

Could the final plan to include increased recommendations for wilderness designation? The areas that should be considered for wilderness protection include Bald Snow, Abercrombie Hooknose and Quartzrite Inventoried Roadless Areas as well as Thirteenmile & Cougar Mountain, Grassy Top, and Hall Mountain.

Sincerely,

Jeela Ganje