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Organization:

Title:

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Ms. Amy Dillon

Forest Plan Revision Team

Colville National Forest

Colville Supervisor's Office

765 South Main.

Colville, Washington 99114

Dear Ms. Dillon and the Forest Management Plan Revision team:

Re: Alternative P - two changes to the plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Management Plan Revision. My husband Walt and I are mountain bikers, and former presidents of the Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club, now known as Evergreen.

Through Evergreen, we learned of this important pending plan for the Colville National Forest, which will determine mountain bike access in an area Walt says is very special. It's a bit too technical for me, but I know those who like challenging experiences and the outdoors treasure this area which should be preserved for future riders and visitors.

We strongly agree with Evergreen's well-worded statement:

"The extensive trail networks in the Colville National Forest offer the key ingredients required for multi-day mountain bike riding experiences. The region as a whole has great potential to become a national riding destination. This promises low-impact non-motorized trail use and significant economic benefit for communities in Northeast Washington. The ecological and trail resources make this Forest a unique place to ride, and it is of utmost importance to me that mountain bike access is maintained and improved throughout the implementation timeframe of the next Forest Management Plan."

Walt and I commend you for your thoughtful approach and thoroughness of the draft plan and preferred alternative. It is our understanding, Alternative P is a good solution for both motorized and non-motorized recreational access, ecological integrity, and regional economic resiliency.

However, two highly valued mountain bike trail systems would be lost due to proposed wilderness designations in Alternative P. For this reason, we strongly encourage you to implement the following two changes to the plan:

1. The proposed Bald/Snow/White wilderness designation eliminates a contiguous Kettles Crest riding experience, as well as connection to Thirteen Mile Trail. Bald/Snow/White should be included in the SIA. This unifies all of the Kettle Crest under one management designation and preserves the unique north-south Crest riding experience, as well as un-interrupted access to the Pacific Northwest Trail. This can be accomplished by changing the Coyote Mountain/Hoodoo road-less area to backcountry or wilderness.
2. The Abercrombie Mountain and Silver Creek trails should be removed from recommended wilderness, and instead designated as backcountry, or another SIA. The Abercrombie and Silver Creek loop should be preserved for mountain bikers as this high alpine riding experience cannot be replicated elsewhere in WA.

With the above changes incorporated, we fully endorse Alternative P. Alternative P facilitates trail maintenance needs with chainsaws, allows the Kettle Crest to be designated as one uniform management designation, in turn making it easier to promote and market as a contiguous geological, ecological, and recreational destination.

Thank you again for your hard work and opportunity to voice our strong support for maintained mountain bike access to the awe-inspiring trails of the Colville National Forest.

Sincerely yours,

Elisa Oksner Shostak

Former president Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club

Members of Evergreen and outdoor enthusiasts.