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Comments: I write regarding the northern portion of the Pacific Northwest Trail which is a huge and unnecessary threat to the grizzlies of the Yaak. Per the latest federal data, only three female with young remain in the entire valley. The meadows are important habitat for these bears but they are in high use at the same time that the trail is heavily trafficked. Routing the trail to the south of the Kootenai River, however, would significantly minimize impacts on grizzly habitat while also economically benefiting the towns of Troy and Libby.

Further, this portion of the trail has limited water and also is difficult for search and rescue. It would make more sense to re-route the trail to the southern portion, which has water, cell service and is more open for search and rescue.

Finally, the trail in the Yaak tracks the Canadian border which complicates border security.

For the foregoing reasons, I ask the the Service consider re-routing the Pacific Northwest Trail south for the benefit of grizzly habitat, border control and hikers. Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment.