

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2022 8:36:14 PM

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Comments: As someone who enjoys the back country and all that it has to offer, I understand the need to protect important fragile and critical habitat. The PNT currently traverses such an area in the Yaak...fragile in the increasing usage by hikers, and at the same time, critical habitat needed for grizzlies and their cubs. In the event of human/bear interaction (as hiking numbers increase), the bear will pay the price even if only acting instinctively...a loss to a struggling population.

The hiker experience would not be diminished by re-routing the trail from the current northern path to the suggested southern path. It would also be a workable solution for other issues including the failure to address local concerns regarding roads and the ever possible search and rescue efforts for back country users.

I stand with the reasonable solution to alter the PNT to the southern route option.