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Title:

Comments: For the following reasons the PNT in its current form is consistently incompatible with the Endangered Species Act. Please reroute the trail to the more sensible southern route where impacts and threats would be far less to the endangered grizzly bears.

- 1) The northern route continues to pose an unacceptable threat to Yaak grizzly bears. According to USFWS, only three females-with-cubs remain in the entire valley.
- 2) Failure to amend the route to the south will lead to other unintended consequences such as the forced closure of roads currently open, once 20 parties per week use the PNT.
- 3) The agency must do a better job of monitoring all trail usage and closed road security.
- 4) The current northern route is water-limited for hikers and poses difficulty to search and rescue; the southern route has more high points, cell service, and water.
- 5) The southern route would provide economic benefit to the trail towns of Troy and Libby.