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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please reroute the Pacific Northwest Trail to the south out of the critical Yaak grizzly recovery area and its habitat. There is no justifiable nor acceptable reason not to reroute the trail to the south. To put hikers and bears at risk makes no sense whatsoever!!! The Yaak grizzly population is an isolated population of bears. If the Yaak loses any adult female grizzlies, the population risks extinction. Only 3 females with cubs remain in the entire valley. Allowing hikers into the Yaak habitat most frequently used by female grizzlies with cubs is a safety issue that could harm both hikers and the threatened grizzly bear population that resides there!!!

In addition, the current northern route poses additional threats to hiker safety with not enough water nor cell phone coverage if search and rescue is needed.

Long distance hikers appreciate towns along the way to rest, regroup, and resupply. The southern route would provide an economic benefit to the towns of Troy and Libby, and stop-over for tired hikers.