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Comments: As conservationists concerned about the future of our grizzly bears we support the reroute of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) out of the Yaak's alpine meadows. These meadows are heavily used by especially sow grizzlies with cubs during the summer/fall when most hikers use the trail. These meadows are considered core grizzly habitat and must be conserved for them. The USFS has the authority to reroute this portion of the trail to south of the Kootenai River, which has more water availability and cell phone reception for search and rescue. There are also road closure issues with the current route. Plus, the towns of Troy and Libby would benefit economically from the reroute. Adequate monitoring must be included in the comprehensive management plan (cmp) as well.

We hope the USFS will do the right thing and reroute the Yaak meadows portion of the PNT. Thank you for listening and acting in the interest of the imperiled Yaak grizzlies.