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Comments: To Whom it May Concern;

As a long time resident of Montana and a 2007 thru-hiker of the Pacific Northwest Trail I would like to offer my perspective on a few aspects of the PNNST Public Scoping Document.

Firstly, in the Nature and Purposes statement the addition of "working forests" needs to be redacted. It is understood that the trail will by the very nature of the socio-political geography it traverses pass NEAR working forests but a plan to limit or prohibit activities such as logging and grazing on federal public lands within the PNT right-of-way must be in place. A working forest does not have a place in line with the promotion, "...the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation" that is the stated mission of the National Scenic Trail system.

Next up is a concern about the upper end of the stated carrying capacity. The methods used to determine these values are unclear and need further detail. At the listed capacities it would difficult to provide opportunity for solitude and would have a detrimental effect on wilderness characteristics. It makes sense to me to provide numbers related to the desired capacities rather than the carrying capacities.

Above I stated the mission of the National Scenic Trail System and the work being undertaken through this scoping document and its subsequent decisions is nothing short of a major opportunity for environmental, cultural, and scenic conservation. The Scoping Document focuses heavily on the latter portion of the mission - the recreational value - but needs to be fortified toward the former - the conservation. Clear, specific guidance in the plan for the trail and its right-of-way should be lined out for conservation efforts.

I appreciate the work of the USDA, the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, the citizens of Montana, Idaho, and Washington, and other interested parties. I look forward to furthering the mission of the NST through this corridor of land both wild and populated. My 61 day journey along it's route will forever be one of the highlight accomplishments of my life and knowing others will have that opportunity for themselves into perpetuity is something I hold very dear.

Sincerely,

Sam Haraldson

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