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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am Tom Graves. I was born, raised, and lived in Winthrop for the past 93 years. I was a smoke jumper for three years; and was chief packer for the Forest Service for four years and a trail maintenance and construction contractor for many years. I was an Outfitter and worked for outfitters. I fought fire privately with the Chewuch Fire contract engines for at least 30 years. I have been over more of the trails in the Pasayten Wilderness than anyone else alive today.

I would like to comment on the current location of the Pacific Northwest Trail. When the trail was designated, it was routed over 10 miles south of the Canadian border. Also, at the time the PNT was designated, there was a trail closer to the boarder that was as good or better trail than the one that was selected. "Better" from the maintenance standpoint and distance standpoint; one that has a better long term stability and one that also goes within half a mile of the Canadian border at Monument 83.

I would like to see a reroute in two places that keeps the PNT within 5 or 6 miles of the Canadian border (see map). The first reroute would be from just south of the junction of the East Fork of the Pasayten and the Middle Fork of the Pasayten, north and west to Monument 83 (along the old Monument Trail) and then from Monument 83 down trail #482. The second reroute would be from Castle Pass and then west on trail #749 to the park boundary.

One other long-term project concerns the existing crossing of the Middle Fork of the Pasayten River (see map). This crossing is very unsafe there should be a bridge at the old bridge site (just south of the confluence of the middle fork and the East fork of the Pasayten rivers).

I would like to talk to someone in the decision making group personally. Don't wait too long because my doctor hasn't given me too much more time to live.

Map in attachment