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Comments: As an environmentally motivated voter who is deeply concerned about the future of our native Western species and ecosystems, I object to the Northern Route addition to the Pacific Northwest Trail because it disrupts a vital area for the very fragile grizzly population, which is already struggling to survive. It was determined in 1980 that the path now proposed threatened them and yet an outside organization managed to push it through Congress. A full 68 miles of the proposed addition pass through grizzly habitat, of which 2/3 is core habitat. This of course creates dangers for human hikers as well as for the grizzlies they will encounter and put at risk of slaughter for simply doing what bears do.

This proposed addition is ill-advised to the point of dangerous. The only reasonable approach is to abandon it in favor of the Southern Route, which avoids all of these problems. I strongly urge the Forest Service to do so.