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Comments:

Draft EA for Motorized Travel Management Comment

Dear Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Motorized Travel Management Plan.

As a hiker, I appreciate the goals outlined in Alternative C to balance recreation access while protecting Critical Fish Habitat in nearby rivers and streams.

However, I am concerned that the forest has not conducted site-specific analysis about potential effects this plan would have on existing recreation uses like hiking and whether the ecosystem can withstand increased use. We urge the forest to conduct site-specific recreation and environmental analysis of the OWNF's motorized travel system, especially in places that are important to hikers like the Upper Mad River, Lake Chelan-Sawtooth, Entiat and the Teanaway.

As Washington's population expands, recreation trends show more and more people are interested in non-motorized recreation activities like hiking. Fifty-three percent of visitors to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest use the forest for non-motorized activities.

I support OWNF's plan for dispersed camping corridors. Sustainable and responsible dispersed camping opportunities are of critical importance to the hiking community and many other recreation enthusiasts.

I look forward to seeing the OWNF develop a forest-wide plan to educate visitors to the forest, enforce and monitor motorized roads and trails to ensure our incredible natural resources are protected and outdoors enthusiasts of all stripes can enjoy their individual activities sustainably.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment,

Dennis Beachler

Gig Harbor, WA