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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. I strongly believe that Alternative C offers the best balance for access to recreation areas while protecting Critical Fish Habitat in nearby rivers and streams. Hiking is an activity that I enjoy immensely-solo, with family and friends. Many of us find the outstanding nature of the Pacific Northwest to be a haven for renewal and reflection, outdoors with flora and fauna. It is essential that we preserve our recreational areas and ecosystems.

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. It is very encouraging to see increasing diversity of hikers on the trails, with much enthusiasm for hiking and camping.

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 can enjoy their individual activities sustainably.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, Catherine Vanderbilt