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Comments:

As a native Westerner who values our wilderness, I write concerning the recent, revised plan to manage the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. The Gallatin Range, as the last region without permanent protection in one of the largest remaining intact temperate zone ecosystems in the world and one of the few remaining places in the Lower 48 that still supports a wide range of wildlife species that have existed here since the Pleistocene must be protected from encroaching development through the implementation of the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement to ensure strong, enduring protection for this important and fragile region.

The first and most important step is that recommended Wilderness should be managed just like designated Wilderness in order to preserve its wilderness character. This means allowing only foot and horse travel in recommended Wilderness and not allowing any mechanized or motorized use

With regard to specific regions, the Crazy Mountains are an amazing example of our wilderness, and those values should be preserved. This can best be achieved by learning from the wisdom of native cultures through close consultation with the Crow Nation. The roadless areas in the Pryor Mountains that should remain in that undisturbed wilderness state include Lost Water, Big Pryor, Punch Bowl, and Bear Canyon. The boundaries of the current recommended Wilderness in the Lionhead should be maintained.

Areas that are currently recommended for Wilderness in the Absaroka Beartooth area should be maintained, and to them should be added Dome Mountain, Emigrant Peak, Chico Peak, Woodbine, East Rosebud to Stillwater, and Red Lodge Creek. The Tongue River Breaks, King Mountain, and Cook Mountain in the Ashland district should be managed as recommended Wilderness.