

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/16/2019 10:28:29 AM

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Comments:

FW: [Website feedback] Public Comment on the future of wild lands in the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

-----Original Message-----

From: admin@example.gov [mailto:admin@example.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 12:57 PM

To: FS-Webmaster <webmaster@fs.fed.us>

Subject: [Website feedback] Public Comment on the future of wild lands in the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Judith DiNardo (not verified) (tdinardo@att.net) sent a message using the contact form at <http://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/contact-us>.

Message

As part of the Forest Plan revision process, the Gallatin Range-stretching from Bozeman to Yellowstone National Park-including the HPBH WSA, is particularly at risk of being sacrificed as a motorized and mechanized recreational playground for the exploding populations of Big Sky and Bozeman.

I support wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the draft forest plan, with the suggested improvements outlined below, which would offer the best protection for the Gallatin Range and other critical wildlife habitat across the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Alternative D creates 39 Recommended Wilderness areas totaling over 711,000 acres, including the Gallatin Range, Lionhead, Crazy Mountains, Bridger Range, Cowboys Heaven, Deer Creeks, Line Creek Plateau, Emigrant Peak, West Fork Rock Creek, Red Lodge Creek, Pryor Mountains, and Tongue River Breaks.

A friend of mine who is a professional photographer said this area is the best place to spot and photograph wolves in the United States. Encompassing more than three million acres, the Custer Gallatin National Forest in Montana is a stronghold for iconic wildlife species like grizzly bears, gray wolves, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose, which are very sensitive to human disturbance and development, and are teetering on the brink.

As a gateway to Yellowstone National Park, the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is home to Montana's tallest peak, the steep, rocky mass known as Granite Peak, which tops out at 12,799 feet. The 155,000-acre Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (HPBH WSA) in the northern Gallatin Range adjacent to Yellowstone National Park is one of the crown jewels of the Northern Rockies and a stronghold for threatened wildlife. Meanwhile, the Lee Metcalf Wilderness is distributed across the Madison Range in southwest Montana. Elsewhere on the Custer Gallatin National Forest, remote buttes and bluffs stretch across southeastern Montana all the way to northwestern South Dakota.

I submit this public comment to weigh in on the future of wild lands in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. I support wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the draft forest plan, with the suggested improvements outlined below, which would offer the best protection for the Gallatin Range and other critical wildlife habitat across the Custer Gallatin National Forest.