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Comments:

I fully support strengthening Alternative D by setting strong standards to achieve the "desired condition" of viable, self-sustaining populations of American bison on the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Conserving American bison viability and diversity should be a forest wide standard. They should be allowed to freely roam the National Forest habitat and that area should be free for them to eat the grasses by not allowing any cattle grazing to take place and thus compete with their source of food.

Listing American bison as a species of conservation concern, reintroducing fire as a natural force in expanding habitat, removing barriers to migration and having a secure habitat are important aspects that should be implemented. With 160 million acres of habitat in the Western Region alone, "no self-sustaining herds of wild plains bison exist on National Forest System lands." National Forest habitat should first and foremost be managed to serve the needs of indigenous species that inhabited the ecosystem long before the State of Montana became a State or the Custer Gallatin became a National Forest. The State of Montana's arbitrarily defined "tolerance zones" for American bison on the National Forest are not based on the best available scientific information. The Interagency Bison Management Plan is not based on the best available scientific information. Montana's interference with this last herd of buffalo is a crime against the species and they should not be allowed to have any ability to adversely affect the buffalo population, including culling and killing these creatures. There needs to be strong fines against these kind of unnecessary actions!

Thank you for your considerations.