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Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Plan and Draft EIS for the Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision. As a person who values public lands for both recreation and important ecosystem services such as clean air, clean water, and the joy that comes from knowing abundant wildlife can thrive on an untamed landscape, I greatly value the opportunity to review planning documents and provide input to the forest planning process.

I strongly support Alternative D due to the strong protections and provisions it puts into place for wilderness areas, wildlife habitat, and its allowance for natural processes to take precedence across a larger swath of the landscape. Of great importance to me is the ability of bison to enjoy greater tolerance and fewer barriers to dispersal on the national forest. The idea of a year-round sustainable bison herd on national forest lands is highly compelling, as it would serve to create resiliency in the wild bison population located in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem by creating more opportunities for bison to leave Yellowstone National Park without lethal repercussions. Having more landscape available to bison will also reduce the need for artificial population controls on Yellowstone bison, which no one really likes having to put in place. Bison deserve to be treated as wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and science- and evidence-based methods should be put into place to reduce brucellosis spread to cattle rather than relying on outdated misconceptions of how the disease spreads. Reducing barriers to migration corridors, improving quality of winter/spring forage and habitat, and scheduling grazing allotments so as not to conflict with bison calving time should all be undertaken on as much of the Custer Gallatin National Forest as possible to allow wider areas for bison to behave as wild bison should.

As for wilderness designations and restoration, I strongly support the following:

\*Protecting the Crazy Mountains to preserve their outstanding wilderness values and managing the area in close consultation with the Crow Nation

\*Protecting the following roadless areas in the Pryor Mountains as recommended Wilderness: Lost Water, Big Pryor, Punch Bowl, and Bear Canyon

\*Implementing the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement

\*Maintaining the boundaries of the current recommended Wilderness in the Lionhead

\*Retain areas currently recommended for Wilderness in the Absaroka Beartooth area, and additionally recommend Dome Mountain, Emigrant Peak, Chico Peak, Woodbine, East Rosebud to Stillwater, and Red Lodge Creek.

\*Managing the Tongue River Breaks, King Mountain, and Cook Mountain in the Ashland district as recommended Wilderness

\*Managing recommended Wilderness just like designated Wilderness, allowing only foot and horse travel in recommended Wilderness and not allowing any mechanized or motorized use

I had formative experiences in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness area as a teenager, and without them I would not be the person I am today. Wilderness is under threat around the country, and the Custer Gallatin

National Forest has the opportunity and responsibility to preserve as much lands with wilderness character as possible for this and future generations.

Thank you for all of your work on envisioning a resilient future of our national forest!