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To the Forest Service:

Natural spaces and wilderness are important to preserve so that we have places untouched by technology and modern man as much as possible. There is a lot of research showing how important nature can be to our individual (and collective) mental health.

The Crazies are amazing, and I had the opportunity a few years ago to backpack for 3 days and not see another person, other than my hiking partner, after the first three miles of trail. To be able to experience this was truly wonderful and soul-restoring. The lack of any motorized noises made the entire experience extra special.

Bear Canyon is where I hiked two Thanksgivings ago, with several friends, before we all feasted the rest of the day away. We saw a few other groups on the trail, which made it nice to know how many others enjoy these public spaces too. Even on a holiday when most in America are at home inside, in Montana people treasure and enjoy the outdoors.

In January of 2017 I had the pleasure of attending a Public Lands Rally in the State Capitol in Helena. It was inspiring to see how many different groups were there to support public lands and wild places. We can all agree on this, it seems, in Montana.

Everyone gains when we preserve nature as much as we can. There is no need to ruin the last best place. That's why it is such--these beautiful, serene, untouched spaces. We are so blessed to live here. These places stay in our hearts and in our souls, and they are a part of us.

So, keep your hands off our public lands. Please.