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Comments:

Please accept my comments into the public record regarding the draft management plan for the Custer Gallatin National Forest. This combined National Forest encompasses some of the best fish and wildlife habitat, incredible recreation opportunities, de facto wilderness with all its biological reserves intact... that bests other National Forests in "the Last Best Place". As a hiker, skier, backpack camper, fisherwoman, and amateur photographer, I cherish the wildness of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Therefore, I encourage the Forest to preserve as much area as possible to prevent degradation from road-building, over-production of forest products, and MOST motorized recreation. It is paramount that the Forest considers effects of resource extraction to prevent irreparable harm to fish and wildlife habitat. Recommendations from biologists must be considered before taking action on timber sales and road building. I believe the Alternative with the least road building should be the preferred Alternative. A great volume of research points to the degradation of habitat from road building. I strongly encourage the Forest to consider recommendations of the MWA to:

- * Protect the Crazy Mountains to preserve their outstanding wilderness values and manage the area in close consultation with the Crow Nation

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

- * Implement the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement

- * Maintain 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

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

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

Thank you for considering my comments.

/s/ Liz Gupton