

June 2, 2019

Custer Gallatin National Forest
Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team
P.O. Box 130 10 E Babcock
Bozeman MT 59771

Dear Members of the Team:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your new Forest Plan. It looks like a lot of work went into it. I have just a couple things for your review.

There should be no new wilderness. Although I am a frequent visitor and lover, we have enough. The Gallatin Range should not be wilderness. It will be one of the only high mountain places available to for people to recreate in non-wilderness fashion.

- A lot was said concerning fires. Often comments are made about suppression efforts causing the problem. The reality is not there; however, this is a common misconception brought up all the time, even in your document. Sure, suppression occurred, but when did it really become effective, 1920, maybe. Then, as you brought up, from the 1940's until the late 1980's the climate was cool and wet. Fires rarely occurred, let alone be suppressed. We're not talking 100 years, not even close. Since, then the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has had a huge imbalance of human caused fires, nothing like nature would have done.

There should be no planned ignitions or propagation of natural fires inside wilderness or wilderness study areas. Such human influence in those areas are a violation of the Wilderness Act. Any human caused fires should be suppressed. Yellowstone's North Fork Fire was man-caused ecological disaster, ignited by a woodcutter and propagated by the bureaucracy. Fires such as 2016's Maple Fire and 2018's Bacon Rind Fire were shams.

- The logging/thinning projects that are taking place are pretty much good for the forest. There is an exception; however, if the area is prime wildlife habitat already, it should not be interfered with. One such place was marked out for logging last summer, and that is the top of the Horse Butte Peninsula at Hebgen Lake. Very few small areas have that much going on in terms of wildlife. Several bald eagle nests are right in it. Elk, bison and grizzly bears are always in this area. You need to remove this project from the list.

- Concerning the Continental Divide Trail: The wording "establish appropriate carrying capacity for segments of the CD" appears to come straight from California. It insinuates something is wrong. I couldn't disagree more.

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The Yellow Mule/Buck Ridge area should remain open to snowmobiling. Snowmobilers have few places available in the area and this is a main one.

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You should use the No Action Plan.

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In the last Travel Plan one section required the Forest Service roads should be maintained to Forest Service Standards. Efforts to follow that plan haven't even come close.

Sincerely,



David C. Klatt
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Cc: Mary Erickson