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Comments:

Dear Staff of the Custer-Gallatin National Forest:

Thank you for this opportunity of comment on your forest plan. I, a range animal scientist, would like you to know that I strongly support Alternative D in your plan because of the protection it gives to existing and special wildlands and associated wildlife in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. As you must be aware, a million or more animal and plant species are threatened with extinction on our planet and therefore this is a really bad time to be allowing recreation such as mountain biking (or other wheel-based activities) on species-rich wildlands when this form of recreation is known to have significant detrimental impact on wildlife such as grizzly bears, elk and probably lynx. So, please plan to manage drainages such as South Cottonwood Creek, Buffalo Horn and Porcupine as well as the Lionhead area and Big Pryor Mountain, Bear Canyon, Lost Water Canyon and Punch Bowl RWAs in the Pryors as wilderness. Although I greatly enjoy mountain and other forms of biking, the wildland areas in the national forest you manage are too special and important as wilderness to be used for mountain biking and other wheeled recreation, and there will still be many hundreds of miles of dirt roads and trails for mountain biking in the CGNF if all the wilderness areas are made off limits to biking.