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Comments:

U.S. Forest Service,

The centrifical force of my family life and childhood memories are the Crazy Mountains in Montana. Viewing them from the east in Two Dot for the first 4 years of my life, then the west in Wilsall for the next 14 built unforgettable landscape views from our kitchen windows. Relatives from both sides of my family have lived and worked the land surrounding these majestic peaks for over 40 years. Just today, I viewed their snow-topped view from our driveway just south of Harlowton, Montana.

As a child I was told legends of how the mountains got their name, took family picnics in the foothills, and watched a variety of wildlife. For a decade, I have made it an annual event to take a road trip along Highway 89 every May or June, just to see how green they contrast with the navy forest and white peaks. It is my wish to have my ashes spread at the Crazies because to me, they represent what it means to be wild, free, and home.

This mountain range goes deep into my family's history, spirituality, and respect for Mother Nature. I want to make sure that their wild beauty is protected in close consultation with the Crow Nation. This also extends to other wildland areas that I have travelled through, hiked, and camped over the past 10 years of living in other areas of Montana and Wyoming.

I also support the Montana Wilderness Associations on the following:

-Protecting Pryor Mountain roadless areas as recommended Wilderness: Lost Water, Big Pryor, Punch Bowl, and Bear Canyon of which I enjoyed and hiked their beauty in 2016

-Maintaining the boundaries of the current recommended Wilderness in the Lionhead

-Implementing the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement to protect peaks like Mount Blackmore and the Hyalite area that I hiked extensively from 2008-2012 while attending Montana State University in Bozeman. Bozeman will continue to grow in population and it is extremely important that we manage the type of access these trails and wildlands can appropriately handle.

-Retain areas currently recommended for Wilderness in the Absaroka Beartooth area, and additionally recommend Dome Mountain, Emigrant Peak, Chico Peak (both of which a friend and I hiked and roadtripped through last week), 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

Growing up on rural ranches, I learned to appreciate what "peace and quiet" truly meant. Each one of these areas embodies this rare treasure. In 2012, I attended a talk in the Grand Canyon about 'soundscapes' and it made me think more about what kinds of noises we add to areas we consider the most wild or natural. I prefer to hike and backpack trails and areas with no motorized use because they are quieter, safer, and allow a refuge from constant manufactured sound. I also can't hear the wildlife or notice a change in their behavior to alert me of danger if there is motorized use nearby. I support managing 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 your attention as I urge you to protect our treasured Wilderness, something that my family, friends, and myself continue to enjoy every day from our kitchen windows, from our vehicles, and in person.

Sincerely,
Nadine Mann