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Comments:

I am a lifelong hunter, angler and all around outdoorsman. Good management of and access to public lands is critically important to me. I consider wilderness areas as a savings account for our country. So, I think all areas designated as WSA's should continue to be managed for their wilderness characteristics. Any change from that will inevitably lead to the loss of those wilderness characteristics and they will be lost forever. And, protected lands such as these are a key economic driver for nearby communities and unlike resource development, which provides short term economic benefits, these lands will diversify the economy and provide economic benefits in perpetuity.

In addition, such areas need to represent all of the landforms and habitats on the Custer and Gallatin NF's.

On other lands, I support sustainable forest and range management.

As a hunter, I know the absolute need for big game security habitat if our hunting opportunities are to be maintained. Therefore, I support seasonal road closures as needed to provide habitat security as historically defined.

As an avid hiker, I have seen firsthand how OHV use can cause accelerated erosion on steeper trails. Therefore, in areas that allow OHV use, trails need to be re-routed to prevent such negative impacts. Accelerated erosion will cause siltation of streams that are important spawning streams and negatively impacting trout populations and fishing opportunity.

And lastly, we need to maintain all existing recreational trails and restore those trails that have been lost due to neglect or budget cuts etc. Too often abandoning trails is the path of least resistance but it cripples the general public's ability to use the forest and seriously compromises our opportunity to pass these traditions along to future generations.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this important plan.