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Comments:

My address is in Bozeman but most of my ecological knowledge, love and appreciation for the forest and the wildlife that live there come from some 60 years spent in the Gallatin Canyon.

Thank you to the CGNFF on a thorough and open public involvement process. My comments all flow from the fact that the Gallatin Forest is a part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the only intact forest ecosystem in the lower 48 states which the full complement of species that have existed here for centuries. As residents privileged to live here we have a responsibility for stewardship of these remarkable lands. Population growth, shrinking migration corridors, the effects of a changing climate, the growing need for clean water sources all play into the picture. With this as my premise:

1. If I was Czar of the Forest I would wholeheartedly endorse Alternative D. However, as one who has been involved in efforts to resolve WSA issues for many, many years, I respect collaboration and the group that has put together the Gallatin Forest Protection Plan. I like many individuals, businesses and the County endorse it. Most of the recommendations are included in Alternative C

2. Following my same premise the Pryors are in need of special protection. The Lost Water, Big Pryor Punch Bowl and Bear Canyon areas need full protection of being recommended as WSAs with no mechanized or mechanical trail use. The unique plant species and fragile environment call for strong protection. The recent UN report on loss of species worldwide is a wake up call.

3. The Crazy Mountains have been battered in recent years. It's time to honor the indigenous Americans, provide protection for their sacred places and not allow any new areas for bikes and mechanized vehicles.

4. There are many ways to protect wilderness and wild areas along with Wilderness. I support all statements in the final plan that will set aside conservation areas, Areas of Critical Concern, etc. These designations and other considerations would allow regulations in the future as these areas degrade. Such future regulations (not part of this Plan at this time) would include access be limited by numbers, closures for wildlife or restoration, etc.

I don't think this fits formal comments but I can't help myself! The Forest Service need funding for more on the ground staff for enforcement, for helping set up the great volunteer programs we now have and expand them. Trail maintenance, trail hosts, etc. and involvement in youth education programs. Understanding how a forest and its inhabitants function is a great investment in our future.