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Comments:

Good morning Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson... I have been a visitor to the Region a number of times and I have a great love for those ancestors of the last great herd of bison from the early 1900's. Besides the American bison, you musty be concerned about the bighorn sheep, and the threatened grizzly bear.

I encourage you to make Alternative D in the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan revision. In addition, to protecting the three mammals (bison, sheep & bears) above, you will also be protecting the wilderness, linkage corridors, habitat connectivity, and of course water resources.

You have seen the eleven (11) bullet points before, but I list them again for your personal review and consideration... please, please, protect the animals and the environment by adding the below to your revised plan.

- * The best available scientific information supports strengthening and adopting Alternative D with enforceable standards for American bison, bighorn sheep, and threatened grizzly bears.
- * Conserving American bison viability and diversity should be a Forest-wide standard.
- * Freedom for American bison to roam National Forest habitat should be a Forest-wide standard.
- * Restoring habitat connectivity for American bison should be a Forest-wide standard.
- * To restore connectivity, and conserve the viability and diversity of American bison's genetically distinct subpopulations, the Custer Gallatin needs to adopt a standard to close and not permit cattle grazing allotments in American bison range.
- * To restore connectivity, and conserve the viability and diversity of native bighorn sheep populations, the Custer Gallatin needs to adopt a standard to not permit domestic sheep grazing in bighorn sheep range.
- * The best available scientific information supports including enforceable Forest-wide standards to protect key linkage areas, habitat connectivity, and food security for threatened grizzly bears.
- * The Custer Gallatin must adopt a Forest-wide standard for all grazing permits requiring "let-down" fencing and remove barriers that impede migration of native species.
- * Adopt a desired condition for the Custer Gallatin to be a leader in the development of wildlife safe passages and measures on highways constructed in migration corridors on the National Forest.
- * Restore more wetlands, creek banks, pond edges, and riparian habitat through strong standards and more yearly projects to benefit American bison and native species diversity.
- * The Custer Gallatin has a duty to fulfill its responsibilities and trust obligations safeguarding treaty rights, sacred species, sacred sites, and traditional cultural places of significance to aboriginal people.

I thank you in advance for your devotion and consideration to do the right thing for all of us who live and visit your beautiful region.

Warm regards,

Ivan Price, CNP