

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/6/2019 6:19:10 AM

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Comments:

Adopt Alternative D and list American bison as a species of conservation concern

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision

Custer-Gallatin National Forest

P.O. Box 130

10 E Babcock

Bozeman, MT 59771

RE: Adopt Alternative D and list American bison as a species of conservation concern

Dear Forest Plan Revision Team

RE: Supporting Alternative D

Dear Supervisor Erickson:

The permitting decisions for the Custer Gallatin National Forest will be making a life or death situation for the iconic American Buffalo. My hope is that the decision makers will not drive the few persisting genetically pure buffalo into extinction.

Biologist's today are not only concerned with loss of habitat, but also the growing lack of connectivity. "Wildlife move both daily and seasonally to survive. However, the habitats animals rely on continue to be fragmented by housing, roads, fences, energy facilities, and other man-made barriers. As a result, animals are struggling more and more to reach food, water, shelter, and breedinsites."

[https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nwf.org%2FOur-Work%2FHabitats%2FWildlife-](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nwf.org%2FOur-Work%2FHabitats%2FWildlife-Corridors&data=01%7C01%7C%7C2a563a9f68b34566eefe08d6ea792d98%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1&sdata=iAz0EWxy%2Bi8yCW4HLBv5fhP3qE68WuXJSxrPJoh2qzk%3D&reserved=0)

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There is currently no empirical evidence which connects buffalo and cattle as contagions to each other for Brucellosis in a free range environment. Therefore, the State of Montana's Zone 3 enactments is senseless, fallacious, and illogical, as it excludes buffalo from access to National Forest habitat.

As well, as taxpayer, I am admittedly opposed to the use of tax dollars supporting a discriminatory practice of welfare for those cattle ranchers who lack the understanding of science and the need for species diversification for survival. Therefore, it becomes the moral obligation of the state to ensure the continued existence of biodiversity. Fencing must be eradicated.

According to Joel Berger, scientist, (2004), American bison have lost 14 migration routes in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. It is imperative for the National Forest to adopt guidelines which support connectivity as a forest wide standard, Alternative D.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Ravet
Enumclaw, Washington

Sincerely,
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