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To Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson,

Per the urging of Buffalo Field Campaign, I urge you to write these standards into the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan revision of Alternative D and adopt strong standards protecting American bison, bighorn sheep, threatened grizzly bears, wilderness, linkage corridors, habitat connectivity, and water.

The best available scientific information supports strengthening and adopting Alternative D with enforceable standards for American bison, bighorn sheep, and threatened grizzly bears.

Please write these standards into the Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan:

-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.

Thank you for your consideration.