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Comments:

As a frequent visitor to Montana and the Yellowstone region, I fully support the Gallatin Forest Partnership's agreement for the stewardship of the Gallatin and Madison Ranges of the Rocky Mountains.

This groundbreaking agreement will protect the character of the Gallatin & Madison Ranges while also maintaining access for all the different ways we recreate in this place. As more and more people are moving to and visiting this area, more and more people are using these places and creating conflict either between people or with wildlife. This agreement provides all of us - people and animals - trails and streams and places in the Gallatin and Madison Ranges to adventure and explore.

The proposal protects the clean water, wildlife habitat and wild backcountry that make the Gallatin and Madison Ranges great places to recreate.

The Partnership proposal is a solution that balances recreation with conservation. It will keep the Gallatin & Madison Ranges the way they are today.

The Partnership brought together community members with a broad range of interests and opinions - from mountain bikers, skiers and hunters to wilderness advocates, outfitters, and local business owners - who sat shoulder to shoulder working out a shared solution.

The Gallatin Range is the source of most of Bozeman's drinking water, part of the intact Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and a priceless recreation resource for the communities of Bozeman, Big Sky and Livingston.

The Gallatin Range is the largest landscape connected to Yellowstone without permanent protection. Now is the time to secure it's future.

The Partnership's proposal maintains access to popular mountain bike trails like S. Cottonwood, Porcupine, and Emerald Lake and recommends wilderness in the heart of the Gallatin Range for hikers and horseback riders.

Thank you,
Matt Walker