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Comments:

Thank you for considering public comments on the proposed Forest Plan Revision for the CGNF. I write today to urge support of recommended wilderness areas as proposed by the Gallatin Forest Partnership and also to expand that recommendation to include the Buffalo-Horn Porcupine Wilderness Study Area as Wilderness. The Gallatins are a national conservation issue because of their importance to the health of the GYE. Rapidly expanding human development in Bozeman and Big Sky make it more important than ever to manage these areas as Wilderness now, and see Congress designate them formally as Wilderness soon, in order to protect important wildlife migration corridors as well as to help grizzly bears recover. University of Montana professor Dr. Christopher Servheen has done extensive research on the impacts of humans on wildlife, particularly bears, and the science is clear that expanding human interaction negatively affects wildlife's ability to find sanctuary. Once these lands are released from Wilderness Study they will be disqualified for Wilderness designation in the future. Once these animals are displaced, it will be too late to correct it and we will see more negative wildlife-human interactions, which will result in more defensive killings and euthanasia of bears, thus eroding the gains we have made in grizzly recovery under the ESA. Please support expanded wilderness in the Gallatins and continue the Buffalo-Horn Porcupine Wilderness Study Area.