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Organization:

Title:

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Comments:

Dear Forest Plan Revision Team,

My name is Jerry Iverson, and I live on a ranch near Big Timber, MT. I am speaking only for myself as an individual citizen, and not for any of the organizations of which I am a member.

I support Alternative D as the preferred alternative for the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan for these reasons:

1. Alt D offers the strongest protection of pristine water quality, and the strongest guarantee that baseline water quality will be maintained in the public forest. Nearly all of the 39 recommended wilderness areas are in the headwaters of the local tributaries. By limiting certain development activities, particularly road building, Alt D reduces the probability of negative impacts on pristine water. The clean water guaranteed by the recommended wilderness areas benefits all citizens downstream. By protecting clean water, Alt D benefits the greatest number of citizens in the U.S.

2. Alt D is the most cost effective to manage. To prohibit some road building, to reduce permitting and enforcement needs, and to promote uses compatible with wilderness adds predictability and stability to management needs, and cost effectiveness to management budgets. The management needs for recommended wilderness areas are well defined (trail maintenance for hikers/horse packers, enforcement of acceptable uses, probably less fire control management), and require a smaller work force. By promoting efficient and cost effective management, Alt D provides the greatest benefit to the greatest number of U.S. citizens.

My ranch is located along Sweet Grass Creek, whose headwaters are in the Crazy Mountains. I particularly support Alt D because it includes the Crazy Mountains in the recommended wilderness areas. I would directly benefit from the clean water protections, and management efficiency, of this wilderness recommendation.

Thanks you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jerry Iverson