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Comments:

Gallatin NF Officials,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft forest plan. I have hiked in several areas in the Gallatin Forest. I am familiar with the landscape, and I have reviewed the draft plan with some care.

I strongly support the work and recommendations of the Gallatin Forest Partnership. I am not personally in agreement with all of the specific recommended designations, but I think the process is credible and helpful, and GFP deserves strong public support.

I support Alt D for the areas in the Pryor Mountains, including the Punch Bowl, Bear Canyon & Big Pryor areas. I support expanding the Lost Water Canyon Rec Wilderness as shown in Alt D. These unique areas deserve permanent protection from motorized use, and protection for important cultural values.

The benefits of wilderness are precious today and will be more precious in the future. This includes protection for clean water, wildlife habitat, and backcountry recreation opportunities, free of the noise and commotion of the modern age.

I also support Alt D Rec Wilderness for the areas adjacent to the AB, including Emigrant Peak, Dome Mtn, Red Lodge Cr & Chico Peak. I also support protections for the Crazy Mountains roadless area, and favor keeping this incomparable area as wild as possible.

Only a small percentage of our public lands are in their wild and natural condition today. These special places in the Gallatin Forest deserve protections so succeeding generations can experience them the way we do today.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Doug Ferrell