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First name: Brett

Last name: Haverstick

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: PO Box 8193

Address2:

City: Moscow

State: ID

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 83843

Country: United States

Email: bhaverstick@yahoo.com

Phone:

Comments:

I am submitting my comment specifically with concern to listing buffalo as Species of Conservation Concern, migration barriers and connectivity, and the role of wildland fire in the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision. Please combine my previous comments regarding recommended wilderness and wilderness administration which were also submitted on May 28, 2019.

I fully support the buffalo or American Bison as a species of conservation concern for the Custer - Gallatin National Forest. The best available science suggests that the species qualifies for such listing. Conserving bison viability should be a priority on these forests. Buffalo should be able to migrate freely across the forest (like other species) and I support a prohibition on hazing of the American Bison across the entire Custer - Gallatin National Forest. The entire national forest should be a "safe-zone" or "hazing-free zone" for buffalo. I also fully support a forest-wide standard adopted for all grazing leases/permits to require "let-down" fencing. This will connect key linkage areas, promote and enhance connectivity and access to habitat and food security. Strengthening and adopting enforceable standards on the Custer - Gallatin National Forest will also benefit other native and imperiled species such as grizzly bears and bighorn sheep. I support bighorn sheep as being listed a Species of Conservation Concern too.

I do not support the Custer - Gallatin Forest Revision adopting the state of Montana's suggested "management" and "tolerance zones" on these forests. The Interagency Bison Management Plan does not incorporate the best available science, it's shelf-life and analysis is out of date, and it is deeply flawed and biased towards the Montana Livestock Association and the invasive species known as cattle or livestock.

I fully support the re-introduction of fire across these forests at the appropriate time and place as well. Fire suppression denies the natural processes and evolution of the native plants and animals on the landscape. Forest fires may enhance the maintenance of important sedge-grasslands and important winter habitat for bison and other species. Bison dispersal and migration along with fire could provide an important tool to restoring northern mixed-grass prairies too.

Thank you.