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Comments:

As we approach the formulation of a new Forest Plan (FP) for the CGNF, I would like to comment on the following:

\*I would like to see all recommended Wilderness in the Custer Gallatin managed accordingly. Any mechanized or motorized use in these areas is in conflict with the original intent of establishing them as potential Wilderness. These lands should be managed as Wilderness so as not to degrade them to a lower standard that would disqualify them Wilderness consideration.

\*Over the years, I have enjoyed trips to the Pryor Mountains when higher elevation areas have more snow and colder temperatures. Therefore, I am in favor of protecting the following roadless areas by placing them in recommended Wilderness status: Punch Bowl, Bear Canyon, Big Pryor and Lost Water.

\*The same can be said for lands in the Ashland District. Areas such as King Mountain, Cook Mountain and Tongue River Breaks should be managed as recommended Wilderness. This part of the state offers lower elevation recreation that is often difficult to find in the higher elevation areas in certain seasons.

\*I love the AB Wilderness and want to see additional protections put on these lands. Thus, I would like to see all current recommended Wilderness areas adjacent to the Wilderness retained. In addition, as I enjoy skiing in the mountains around Mill Creek and Chico, I would like Dome Mountain, Chico and Emmigrant Peak areas placed under recommended Wilderness designation.

\*On the Beartooth Front I'm in favor of recommended Wilderness designation for the country between the Stillwater River and East Rosebud Creek. There are some wonderful streams and lakes in this country and the relatively lower elevation provides excellent wildlife habitat. The same can be said for the Red Lodge Creek and Woodbine areas.

\*I would like to see the boundaries of the current recommended Wilderness in the Lionhead remain unchanged. I ski in this area several times each winter and I enjoy the solitude provided by human powered travel.

\*For many reasons I believe the Crazy Mountains should be managed in collaboration with the Crow Nation. It is sacred ground to these people and they inhabited the area long before Europeans came on the scene. On a personal note, I enjoy backpacking in these mountains, but do not enjoy the noise and stench of motorized vehicles that are common in some parts of the range.

\*Please act as soon as possible on implementing the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement. This is not the plan that I originally favored. However it is likely the best possible outcome in a highly contentious debate. This plan does allow for various uses and all major user groups are represented in the solution.

I would also like to comment on the current management of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wilderness (AB LM) areas. There are no modern Wilderness Management Plans for either area. This situation should be corrected as soon as possible. I believe the new FP should set the table for new Wilderness Management Plans. If possible, these should be written within a couple years of completion of the new FP. Also:

\*There should be an unequivocal statement that prohibits trail development in the most pristine portions of the Wilderness (which is designated as Zone 1 in the new FP).

\*There should be an unequivocal statement that prohibits bicycles from the Wilderness. The current narrative (Section 116) addresses the "lack of suitability" of motor cycles and bicycles. This falls short of a prohibition and does not provide cover for the relentless push to allow bicycles in Wilderness.

\*Fisheries management should be directed only towards native species in historically stocked water bodies. Expansion into non-historic stocking sites should be prohibited unless it helps ensure the viability of an endangered or threatened fish species.

\*Language describing the quality of "untrammelled " terrain should be aimed at future agency actions such as vegetation, fish and wildlife manipulation. Language for any work proposed in Zone 1 should be highly restrictive.