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Comments:

Attachment Kessler

I am writing regarding the Forest Service's Draft Revised Land Management Plan for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and to urge you adopt Alternative D. Alternative D is the ONLY choice that recommends a suitable percentage of forest as Wilderness, thus ensuring the wildlands of southern Montana are protected, conserved and maintained for their vital importance for wildlife, providing intact habitat and ecological diversity for generations to come. It is imperative that the revised plan manages our backyard wildlands so that the future of these places that mean so much to our way of life are healthy and available to all future generations as well. In particular, I am urging the Forest Service to:

- Protect existing recommended Wilderness surrounding the Absaroka Beartooth Ranges, and include Dome Mountain, Chico Peak and Emigrant, where I recreate frequently as they are all in my backyard, as well as West Woodbine, East Rosebud to Stillwater and Red Lodge Creek.
- Protect the wilderness values and cultural significance of the Crazy Mountains, which are in my backyard to the north and where I also recreate frequently.
- Protect the recommended Wilderness in the Lionhead.
- Recommend the following areas in the Pryor Mountains for Wilderness: Lost Water, Big Pryor, Punch Bowl and Bear Canyon.
- Manage recommended Wilderness exactly like designated Wilderness, and not allow mountain biking or motorized use in these recommended Wilderness areas.

Outside of Yellowstone National Park, established Wilderness Areas are the greatest means of protecting the habitat and wildlands so crucial to preserving the uniqueness and diversity of wildlife in the Yellowstone region, as well as providing the necessary refuge we, and all species will need as the effects of climate change become more pronounced. If we want to ensure that the greater Yellowstone continues to provide for both human and wildlife inhabitants for generations to come, as well as to preserve our reverence for wild places, the Forest Service must enact a management plan that can provide protections to make that a reality. Thank you for your consideration.