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First name: Marty

Last name: Malone

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: PO Box 152

Address2:

City: Pray

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59065

Country: United States

Email: dogrockranch@gmail.com

Phone: 406-223-1302

Comments:

The Custer Gallatin National Forest has a high risk of catastrophic fire with the current fuel loads which are present. Wild and Scenic River corridors prohibit commercial timber harvest and could prevent the Forest Service from reducing fuel loads in many areas. (see FW-SUIT-WSR) (01) The following Rivers proposed by the Forest Service on page 95 and 96 of the proposed action should be removed from the list.

Bark Cabin

Big Creek

Big Timber Creek

Cabin Creek

Gallatin River

Hyalite Creek

Lake Abundance Creek

Middle Fork Cabin Creek

Pine Creek

Shower Creek

Slough Creek and unnamed tributaries

West Boulder River

Yellowstone River

Besides the loss of the ability to reduce fuel loads by commercial timber harvest in the river and creek corridor by the designation, other issues should be considered. The Constitution of Montana provides that ALL WATERS both ebb and flow including atmospheric belong to the state for the benefit of the people. It seems a designation of Wild and Scenic by a federal agency could be in conflict with our Constitution and the authority over water.