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First name: Emerald

Last name: Parisi

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 205 Red Fox Road

Address2:

City: Judith Gap

State: MT

Province/Region: MT

Zip/Postal Code: 59453

Country: United States

Email: emeraldjoy7@hotmail.com

Phone: 4062200707

Comments:

Hello and thank you for your time.

I have recently reviewed the section of the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan specifically related the the Crazy Mountains. I fully support the inclusion of as much of the area as can be to be "designated" area that offers road less protection of the land n question. I grew up in Livingston Montana, and currently reside in Judith Gap. My father was born and raised in Livingston and he spent a lot of time fishing with his family as a little boy. I grew up hearing stories about Forest Lake. My dad has introduced me and my family to Forest Lake as well, however, there is a huge difference than from when he was a child, access to it is much more difficult. He spoke of being able to access the lake from multiple directions, and now there is really only one way in and this is due to private land ownership of much of the land up into the Mountains. It grieves me that I cannot experience this as he did as a child and my children will never know this area as an area that belongs to all, to the public, but to private land owners who we have seek permission to use from. Our family has a current tradition of hiking into Blue lake. I honestly cannot imagine if something changed and our grandchildren would never know that as an option. There is something magical about the Crazy Mountains. It must be protected.

Another reason that I strongly support the protection of the Crazy Mountains as a designated area is because of my feelings and affiliation with the Crow Tribe. I work in Crow Country and many of the members are like family to me now. I can see first hand the effects of cultural genocide that they have been the victims of and I believe that their future resiliency depends on their ability to participate in traditional practices that have been lost. We personally know people who seek guidance during their treks to Crazy Peak as a spiritual journey. We also believe that providing more of an opportunity for the young ones to know this journey will lead to greater health of the tribe. This land is absolutely sacred and should be honored as such.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Emerald Parisi