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Comments:

May 19, 2019

TO: Custer Gallatin National Forest

SUBJECT: I favor Alternative D in the
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
Draft Revised Forest Plan
(aka Forest Plan Revision)
Custer Gallatin National Forest, Montana

To whom it may concern;

I favor Alternative D in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Draft Revised Forest Plan for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, Montana. My comment comes after studying the plan and reviewing the alternatives.

I have been recreating in the Custer Gallatin National Forest (CGNF) since the late 1970's. Since the 1970's, I have been backcountry skiing, rock and ice climbing, mountaineering, backpacking, boating, and working in the CGNF. This has been from the Madison and Taylor Hilgard ranges to the eastern extremities of the Beartooth's. I regard the CGNF as home-ground and an incredible landscape. Combined with the beautiful forest land and animals living in the CGNF, I am in complete awe of this public land.

I have also been on climbing and backcountry trips to other places as well: Alaska, Canada, Europe, South America, and Africa. All these experiences outdoors have provided me with a perspective on country both wild and developed for human habitation, farming, resource extraction, and recreation.

Through these life experiences, I have come to consider the impact of the world's growing human population (including in the United States), decrease in forests and roadless areas due to farming and exploitation of resources, the decline in the number and diversity of animal life, increasing chemicals and manufactured compounds in our environment, and climate change . . . To me, this is a warning call that we have an obligation to preserve, to the greatest extent possible, forest land and critical wildlife habitat in the CGNF as wilderness. I believe that the highest priorities need to be in habitat preservation, trees and plant preservation, and maintaining the highest water quality possible in the CGNF, with no further avenues for human incursion. Furthermore, CGNF managers should decrease the existing avenues (roads and trails) in areas of high wildlife and habitat value, trees and plant value, and water quality value. With the CGNF preserved in such a manner, as I have described above, the CGNF can be an extraordinary refuge and reservoir for animals/species abundance and diversity, high quality/clean water, and resilient environment against climate change. Hence, my reason in supporting Alternative D.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Plan Revision.

Sincerely,

Mark Pearson
Bozeman, Montana