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First name: Robert

Last name: Raney

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 212 South 6th St

Address2:

City: Livingston

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59047

Country: United States

Email: bobraney@onemain.com

Phone:

Comments:

Mary Erickson, Supervisor

Custer-Gallatin National Forest

10 E Babcock

Bozeman, Montana 59771

Subject: Forest Plan Revision

Dear Supervisor Erickson,

I am particularly concerned about the Crazy Mountains. They are truly a big part of the Big Sky Country that we are all so proud of. I have spent my entire 73 years in sight of this majestic range and have camped, hiked, hunted, fished, bird watched, berry picked, back packed, and sought QUIET solitude there all these years (except when disturbed by the screech of a mountain lion). I want it maintained as close to Wilderness as can be achieved and as far into the future as possible. At a minimum, I am in favor of Alternative D of the Custer/Gallatin /Forest Management Plan as it applies to recommended Wilderness for the Crazies, but with the expanded backcountry boundaries of Alternative C applied.

As everyone is aware, the use of our public lands is increasing rapidly and having many negative impacts on the land, water, vegetation and wildlife. The rapid development of private lands in this forest region are leaving less and less room for all things wild and natural. Please note the startling population growth and tourism expansion in this management area. The rapidly expanding use of machines - both human pedaled and engine driven - is having the same effects on these basic values. I am sure you are well aware of the impact any of these machines have on trails, water resources, wildlife and all other users of the forest. Toss in the growing effects of climate change and it becomes pure folly to expand any kind of machine use in these mountains for any purpose.

Please provide the best protection possible for these mountains for future generations.

Robert H. Raney