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Comments:

Hello Project Officials,

I join with those who are writing to encourage support for Alternative D.

Alternative D does have the most recommended wilderness, but 77% of national forest land would still be open to mechanized travel, and unmotorized bikers could still access the wilderness acres without a bike. Alternative D gives the most protection to the forest ecosystem. Habitat for all species that utilize wilderness as a home or a corridor should be protected and should be expanded not made limited. We as recreational inhabitants should learn we need to minimize our footprint. Can we mutually adopt a new paradigm: "Share Nature for all Creatures" recommended over the out of date "Multiple Use"

We rationally know that many species are threatened with extinction from climate change; that the compromising of finite resources has an inevitable end; future planning processes demanding evermore compromise, resources we can live with right now, could eventually disappear; these are the important issues that we the public and you the protectors of our natural resources should be focusing on. Let's keep in mind that what we do is for future generations too.

The growth statistics presently made for the Gallatin-Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as well as the future of growth in the region are staggering to behold. For population growth headed our way it is imperative that we not let the opportunity for keeping Wilderness in our backyard pass us by. That is why Alternative D, embracing Wilderness is most popular because people understand that protecting wilderness is still important consideration for those of us living in Montana. That's why we live here.

Thank you.

Hallie Rugheimer