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Comments:

Comment draft plan - CGNF

May 9, 2019

Forest Plan Revision Team

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Dear Revision Team,

First and very importantly, all wildlife and its environment is vitally important to our globe and our existence. It is all integral to a symbiotic ecosystem where any one missing part is severely and perhaps mortally felt.

This interconnectivity is crucial not only to this Greater Yellowstone area, but to all areas. History has shown that the earth and its ecosystem can heal, but it takes millennia to accomplish this. We, the folly-ridden human race simply do not have that kind of time to tinker with nature.

National Parks and Forest Areas were rightfully created to preserve the best, the most jewel-like aspects of our country for all of humanity. It is considered a sacrilege to destroy or infringe upon these areas to any extent with the intent on marring or defacing them in any way.

Our countrymen and this administration are already willfully heedless of the calamity of Global Warming and wrongfully side with junk scientists and mega-corporations in the wanton destruction of large swaths of our land and ecosystem for their boundless greed. It will all come to no good in the end for our brazen inability to play a godlike role in the destruction of 'Mother Earth' and her bounty.

But, while we await the seemingly inevitable destruction of much of what we hold dear let us, at least, preserve the most precious jewels of our land - ALL of our National Parks and Forests and Recreation areas.

So, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on The Custer Gallatin National Forest's Draft Management Plan. Specifically, I am commenting on the Absaroka Beartooth and Madison, Henrys Lake, and Gallatin geographic areas. These areas provide valuable wildlife habitat,

headwater streams, and diverse recreational opportunities within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Booming urban growth, advances in recreation technology, and climate change related impacts are putting more and more pressure on our public lands. It is critical that the new management plan get ahead of these threats by cementing our recreation footprint in place, protecting wildlife populations, and implementing strategies to better understand and adapt to a changing climate.

I support the full incorporation of the Gallatin Forest Partnership (GFP) Agreement into the plan for the Gallatin and Madison ranges. However, while alternative C incorporates parts of that agreement, it does not accurately reflect the GFP's recommendations for wildlife protections or recreation monitoring. Looking outside the GFP agreement, it is also critical that we protect and enhance other areas, including wildlife linkage areas and existing wilderness, and include enforceable climate change components.

I recommend the following revisions to the draft plan:

Ensure wildlife connectivity in portions of the Madison, Henrys Lake, and Gallatin Geographic Area that aren't otherwise protected by the grizzly bear recovery zone. The Madisons are critical for wildlife movement to areas beyond the National Forest. Habitat protections for grizzly bears must extend wherever population health is monitored and into areas important for connectivity. Grizzlies must also be designated as a Species of Conservation Concern.

Plan components must support a year-round self-sustaining bison population within tolerance areas on National Forest System lands. West Pine and Porcupine Buffalo Horn backcountry areas must mirror Cabin Creek Wildlife Management Area in wildlife protection and wild character plan components.

Recreational use must be monitored more extensively by area, and standards must ensure that increasing recreation is balanced with wildlife protection.

Manage existing wilderness areas in line with the 2020 Vision.

Given the uncertainties of climate change, monitoring questions for vegetation, invasive species, aquatic resources, fire, and more must explicitly assess the effects of climate change and guide adaptive management as required by the 2012 planning rule (219.12(a)(5)(vi)).

In addition to the 30 rivers recommended as eligible for Wild and Scenic designation, include Taylor Creek, Hellroaring Creek, and the South Fork of the Madison due to their outstanding wildlife values.

I am excited to see the Custer Gallatin National Forest taking a fresh look at our ecosystems and the many species that depend on them. The Draft Plan and DEIS includes many strong points, and with some revisions the new management plan will be an important tool to guide decades of sustainable forest management. Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Respectfully,

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