

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/6/2019 1:54:57 PM

First name: George

Last name: Wuerthner

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 306 South Fifth

Address2:

City: Livingston

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59047

Country: United States

Email: gwuerthner@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

Dear CGNF

I am submitting the signatories to a letter supporting maximum wilderness designation for the Gallatin Range, in particular, a recognition that the Buffalohorn Porcupine is one of the most important areas on the entire CGNF. If any area deserves wilderness designation, this is the place.

I am asking that you do not consider this as "one" letter of support. I directly and personally contacted the majority of all signatories to the letter. And each person who signed on to the letter was expressing their support to the spirit and theme of the letter. I have individual emails to show that people as diverse as scientists like Barrie Gilbert, Lance Craighead, Andy Hansen, Scott Creel, David Wilcove, Susan Clark, Joel Berger, Thomas Lovejoy, and Reed Noss former and current agency people like Mike Finley (former Yellowstone NP Superintendent), Barry Reiswig (former Refuge Manager at National Elk Refuge) to Jerry Frielich, (Chief Scientist at Olympic NP) as well as famous personalities like Bruce Babbitt to Yvon Chouinard to Carol King. All of these and other signers to the letter individually approved of this letter. It would be incorrect to assume that their names and confirmation of the letter's content does not reflect their values.

I am pasting the letter and then the names.

Dear Member of Congress:

As biologists, wildlife advocates, and members of the scientific community, we are writing to express our strong support for maintaining the ecological integrity of the Gallatin Range by establishing a 230,000-acre or larger wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Wilderness designation is recognized as the "Gold Standard" for preserving wildlands and ecological values.

The scientific community recognizes that large protected areas with connectivity to other large protected patches is the best way to preserve high-quality wildlife habitat and permit the continued influence of ecological processes like wildfire, predation, migration, and other natural influences.

The Gallatin Range is the most significant unprotected wildlands in the northern Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. In particular, the Buffalo Horn and Porcupine (BHP) drainages that lie immediately north of Yellowstone National Park are critical to the biotic fidelity of the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The Buffalo Horn-Porcupine was recognized early on for its wildlife values. In 1910 Forest Service Chief Gifford Pinchot advocated protecting the southern Gallatin Range as a wildlife refuge. A year later, the state of Montana created a wildlife refuge in the Buffalo Horn and Porcupine portion of the Gallatin Range. In recognition of the inherent wildlands values of the range, in 1977, some 155,000 acres, including the BHP drainages, were designated the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area by Congress.

The Buffalo Horn Porcupine area has some of the best grizzly bear habitat outside of Yellowstone National Park. It is also vital elk winter range and a migration corridor. These drainages also support bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goat, wolverine, cougar, wolf, and mule deer. Both of these drainages also possess native Westslope cutthroat trout, a species once proposed for listing under the ESA. According to the Montana Heritage Program, 18 birds, eight mammals, three fish, three amphibians, and one reptile as "at risk" or declining in numbers, demonstrating the need to provide the most durable protection possible for this area.

It has long been recognized by the scientific community that protected areas in isolation fail to preserve species and ecosystem processes adequately. Wildlife corridors provide connectivity, sustaining vital natural processes, wildlife populations, and biodiversity while allowing species to move in response to climate change.

The Gallatin Range is a recognized wildlife corridor linking YNP to the Northern Continental Ecosystem.

A biological assessment of the range by Lance Craighead also demonstrated the biological significance of the range. [http://www.craigheadresearch.org/uploads/7/6/9/0/7690832/executive\\_summary\\_hpbh\\_wsa.pdf](http://www.craigheadresearch.org/uploads/7/6/9/0/7690832/executive_summary_hpbh_wsa.pdf)

Another study by Steve Gehman lists the wildlife values of the range. [http://www.wildthingsultd.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Gallatin-Range\\_fullreport\\_with\\_photos.pdf](http://www.wildthingsultd.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Gallatin-Range_fullreport_with_photos.pdf)

A comprehensive analysis of conservation values across the entire Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem identified the Gallatin Range as a critical area for protection. Noss RF, Carroll C., Vance-Borland K. and Wuerthner G. 2002. A multicriteria assessment of the irreplaceability and vulnerability of sites in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. *Conservation Biology* 16: 895-908 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1046/j.1523-1739.2002.01405.x>

With its high wildlands and ecological values, we the undersigned request that approximately 230,000 roadless acres of the Gallatin Range be given the full protection of the Wilderness Act by Congress to ensure the continued ecological integrity of these public lands.

To learn more about the Gallatin Range's wildlands values, see this link: <https://mountainjournal.org/gallatin-mountains-in-montana-deserve-wilderness-protection>

A map showing the Gallatin Range roadless lands can be found here: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd577294.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd577294.pdf)

## REFERENCES

1 Wilson, Edward O, *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*, W.W. Norton, 2016. 2 Gilbert-Norton L, Wilson R, Stevens J.R., Beard K.H. 2010. A Meta-analytic review of corridor effectiveness. *Conservation Biology* 24: 660-668. 3 Beier P, Noss R.F. 1998. Do habitat corridors provide connectivity? *Conservation Biology* 12: 1241-1252. 4 Fahrig L, Merriam G. 1985. Habitat patch connectivity and population survival. *Ecology* 66: 1762-1768. 5 Haddad N.M., Baum K. 1999. An experimental test of corridor effects on butterfly densities. *Ecological Applications* 9: 623-633. 6 Christie M.R., Knowles L. 2015. Habitat corridors facilitate genetic resilience irrespective of species dispersal abilities or population sizes. *Evolutionary Applications* doi: 10.1111/eva.12255. 7 Lawler J.J., Ruesch A.S., Olden J.D., McRae B.H. Projected climate-driven faunal movement routes. *Ecology Letters* 16: 1014-1022. 8 Gonzalez A., Blackburn T.M. 1998. Metapopulation dynamics, abundance, and distribution in a microsystem. *Science* 281: 2045-2047. 9 Chen I.C., Hill J.K., Ohlemuller R., Roy D.B., Thomas C.D. 2011. Rapid range shifts of species associated with high levels of climate warming. *Science* 324: 1024-1026.

Reed Noss, Ph.D.  
Conservation Biologist  
Visiting Scholar Duke University  
President Florida Institute for Conservation Science

Thomas E. Lovejoy Ph.D.  
Univ. Prof. Environmental Science and Policy  
George Mason University

Joel Berger, Ph.D.  
Colorado State University  
Wildlife Conservation Society

Dominick Dellasalla, Ph.D.  
President, Chief Scientist  
Geos Institute | 84 Fourth Street  
Ashland, Oregon 97520

David Wilcove Ph.D.  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Princeton University  
Princeton, NY

Bruce Babbitt  
Former Sec. of Interior  
Washington DC

Dr. William Ripple  
Forest Ecology and Society  
Oregon State University

David Delehanty  
Professor of Biology  
Idaho State University

Richard Hutto, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Biology and Wildlife Biology  
Division of Biological Sciences  
University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812

Richard P. Reading, Ph.D.  
Director of Research & Conservation, Butterfly Pavilion &  
Affiliate Faculty, Colorado State University  
Dr. Ralph Maughan, professor emeritus,  
Dept. of Political Science  
Idaho State University

Carole King  
Singer/Songwriter  
42-year resident of Idaho, or;  
Stanley, Idaho

Micheal Kellet  
ED  
RESTORE  
Massachusetts

Joseph Scalia  
Former President  
MWA  
Livingston, Montana

Ross Rodgers,  
former pres.  
Montana Wilderness Association

Paul Edwards  
Former MWA board  
Helena, Montana

Matthew Koehler  
Wild West Institute  
Missoula, Montana

Dawn and Jamie Lennox  
Wilderness Advocate  
Missoula, Montana

Mike Finley  
Former Supt.  
Yellowstone NP

Michele Dieterich  
Friends of the Bitterroot.

Kathy Hansen Crawford  
Bozeman, MT

Mike Clark  
Former ED  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Don & Margarita McLarty  
Founders, Yellowstone Guidelines, Inc.  
Former Backcountry Wilderness Guides

Michele Dieterich  
Friends of the Bitterroot

Angela Kociolek  
Wilderness Supporter,  
M.Sc. Biology with a Conservation Emphasis,  
former MSU Road Ecology Research Scientist

Dr. Steven Blair, Bozeman MT [steven@evolutionofbalance.com](mailto:steven@evolutionofbalance.com)  
Dave Carty, Writer, Bozeman MT [davecarty33@gmail.com](mailto:davecarty33@gmail.com)  
Les Jones, Physician's Assistant, Bozeman Mt [jones-girls@msn.com](mailto:jones-girls@msn.com)  
Mike Costanti, dad, Bozeman MT [mcostanti@gmail.com](mailto:mcostanti@gmail.com)  
Karl Rothe, student, Bozeman MT [karl.rothe@gmail.com](mailto:karl.rothe@gmail.com)  
Olivia Cruickshank, student, Bozeman MT [oduquinn1@gmail.com](mailto:oduquinn1@gmail.com)  
David Maverly, (from Nancy Schultz sign up in 2018?)

Dr Thomas Pringle  
Sperling Foundation  
Tucson, AZ 85743

Dr. Jodi Hilty  
President and Chief Scientist  
Yellowstone to Yukon

Susan Morgan Ph.D.  
Rewilding Institute  
New Mexico

James Peek Ph.D.  
Moscow, Idaho

Dennis C. Odion Ph.D.  
Earth Research Institute  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93106

Rick Rickway  
Patagonia  
Ventura, CA

Natalie Dawson Ph.D.  
Former Director Wilderness and Civilization  
U of Montana

Rick Reese  
Principal founder and three term president of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
former Director of The Yellowstone Institute  
Bozeman, MT

Dr. Brian L. Horejsi  
Speak Up For Wildlife Foundation  
Penticton, BC, Canada

Dr. Donald W. Johnson  
Emeritus Fisheries Scientist  
Libby Creek Watershed Association

Shelly Silbert ED  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Durango, CO

Debra L. Donahue, M.S., J.D.,  
Professor Emerita  
University of Wyoming

George Wuerthner  
Ecologist  
Public Lands Media  
Livingston, Montana

Dr. Donald W. Johnson  
Emeritus Fisheries Scientist  
Libby Creek Watershed Association

John G. Carter, PhD Ecology  
Yellowstone to Uintas Connection  
PO Box 363  
Paris, ID 83261

Norman A. Bishop,  
National Park Ranger, 1961-1997  
Bozeman, Montana'

Dr. Kenneth L. Pierce  
Emeritus  
USGS  
Bozeman, Montana

Douglas H. Chadwick, MS  
Wildlife Biologist and Writer  
Whitefish, Montana

Brian Miller, Ph.D.  
2308 Anderson Dr.  
Las Vegas NM 87701

Barrie Gilbert, PhD  
Senior Scientist (retired)  
Dept. of Wildland Resources  
Utah State University  
Logan, Utah

Dick Dorworth  
Author  
Bozeman Montana

Dr. Barry R. Noon, Emeritus Professor  
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology

Graduate Degree Program in Ecology  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523

G. Wayne Minshall Ph.D.  
Professor of Ecology Emeritus  
Idaho State University

Andrew Hansen, Ph.D.  
Dept. of Ecology  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, Montana

Dr. James A. Bailey,  
Retired wildlife biologist,  
Colorado State University.

Dr Michael Vandeman  
San Ramon, CA

Ara Marderosian,  
Executive Director  
Sequoia ForestKeeper®  
Kernville, CA 93238

Capt. William B Davis  
Marsha Carter Davis  
Montana

Dr. Brian L. Horejsi  
Speak Up For Wildlife Foundation  
British Columbia

Barry Reiswig, Refuge Manager, retired  
National Elk Refuge.  
Cody, WY

Ned Hettinger, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy,  
College of Charleston

Erik Molvar MS  
Wildlife Biologist  
Laramie WY 82070

Gary Weiner, MS  
Retired NPS Landscape Architect  
Bozeman, Montana

Lance Craighead Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Craighead Institute  
Bozeman MT 59715

Diane Debinski, Ph.D.  
3117 Madrona Lane  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Rick Hawley MS

Executive Director  
Chaparral Institute  
CA.

David Delehanty, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
Idaho State University

John Davis  
Executive Director  
The Rewilding Institute  
Albuquerque NM

David Parsons, MS  
Carnivore Conservation Biologist  
The Rewilding Institute

Glenn Hockett  
President,  
Gallatin Wildlife Association  
Bozeman, MT 59717

Christopher A. Frissell, Ph.D.  
Principal Scientist  
Frissell & Raven Hydrobiological and Landscape Sciences, LLC  
Polson, MT

Blaine Mooers, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
U of Oklahoma  
Oklahoma City, OK

Dennis Glick MS  
ED Future West  
Bozeman, MT

Bruce Smith, Ph.D.  
305 Old Forest Creek Trail  
Bozeman, MT

Dr. Bruce Maxwell  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, Montana

Dr. Harvey Locke  
Wild Foundation  
Alberta, Canada

Debra Patla MS  
Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative  
Moran, Wyoming

Derek Lee, Ph.D.  
Principal Scientist  
Wild Nature Institute &  
Associate Research Professor  
Penn State University

Robert L. Beschta, Ph.D.

Emeritus Professor  
Forest Ecosystems and Society  
Oregon State University

Dr. Roger Rosentreter  
Retired BLM State Botanist  
Boise, Idaho

Franz Camenzind, Ph.D.  
Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance  
Executive Director (Retired)

Steve Hoffman Ph.D.  
Founder Hawkwatch International  
Bozeman, Montana

George Nickas  
Executive Director  
Wilderness Watch  
Missoula, Montana

Ann Debolt MS  
Sagebrush Restoration Specialist  
Boise, Idaho

Dick Walton, Ph.D.  
Billings, Montana

Jerry Freilich, Ph.D.  
Retired NPS  
Olympic and  
Grand Teton NP

Kevin Proescholdt  
Conservation Director  
Wilderness Watch  
2833 43rd Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Mary Fay MS  
Wilderness activist  
Bend, OR

Al Espinosa, MS  
USFS Fisheries Scientist (retired)  
Moscow Idaho

Randy Hayes  
Executive Director Foundation Earth  
Rainforest Action Network founder

Vance G. Martin  
President,  
WILD Foundation

Louisa Wilcox MS  
Founder Grizzly Times  
Livingston, Montana



David Mattson Ph.D.  
Leader Colorado Plateau Research Station and Research Wildlife Biologist,  
USGS; Lecturer and Senior Visiting Scientist, Yale University; Retired.  
Livingston, Montana

Patty Ames  
Conservation Elder  
809 Simons Dr.,  
Missoula, Mt. 59803

Thomas Michael Power Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus of Economics  
The University of Montana

Ann Harvey,  
Research Associate,  
Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative  
Jackson, WY

Carena J. Van Riper, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1102 S. Goodwin Avenue  
W-503 Turner Hall, MC 047  
Urbana, IL 61801

Arnold D. "Smoke" Elser,  
Conservation Elder  
Retired, Wilderness Outfitter  
Bob Marshall Wilderness Area

Teddy Roe  
Conservation Elder  
Legislative assistant to  
Senator Lee Metcalf  
Billings, Montana.

Bill Cunningham  
Conservation Elder  
Choteau, Montana

Scott Creel , Ph.D.  
Dept of Ecology  
Montana State University

Susan Clark Ph.D.  
Northern Rockies Conservation  
Yale School of Forestry  
Linda Stoll  
Conservation Elder  
Helena, Montana

Denise Boggs  
Conservation Congress  
Billings, MT

Jim Barrett  
Former ED of PCEC

Livingston, Montana

Heidi Barrett  
Formerly with GYC  
Livingston, Montana

Gary M. Tabor MES VMD  
President  
Center for Large Landscape Conservation  
P.O. Box 1587  
Bozeman, Montana 59771  
[www.largelandscapes.org](http://www.largelandscapes.org)