

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/1/2019 8:57:59 AM

First name: Deborah

Last name: Berglund

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 1406 bearcanyon rd

Address2:

City: Bozeman

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59715

Country: United States

Email: bearcanyonllamas@hotmail.com

Phone: 4065865520

Comments:

I recommend Alternative D in the Custer/Gallatin National Forest plan for wilderness and wildlife!

The population of the Gallatin Valley is growing rapidly, putting it over 200,000 by 2030. Already there many more recreationists on our trails. We used to be able to get away from civilization by going a few miles into the forest but that is no longer possible due to crowding.

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is only one in the temperate zone that has all the wildlife species that were here when Lewis and Clark arrived, and one of only two in the lower 48 where grizzly bears survive. The Custer/Gallatin Forest is the only unprotected piece adjacent to Yellowstone Park, and is at risk of being sacrificed as a recreational playground to the exploding populations of Bozeman and Big Sky. The wildlands of Greater Yellowstone are important in connecting the wildlife of Yellowstone to the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem, and onward to the Yukon. The Gallatin Range has 18 species at risk, as identified by the Montana Heritage Program. It contains critical grizzly habitat, elk winter range and a vital elk migration corridor, and is one of the best places for recolonization by wild bison. Motorized recreation will do serious damage to the habitat, disturbing both the land and the peaceful habitat for wildlife.

Alternative C allows for mountain bikes which despite what the bikers say do serious damage to the trails and cause potential problems with wildlife. According to research done in Alberta's parks, mountain bikers have conflict with grizzly bears because of their speed and silence. Mountain Journal quoted Chris Servheen, the 40-year head of the USFWS Grizzly Bear Recovery Team in an article recently, saying that mountain bikers are a grave threat to bears, both grizzly and black, due to their high speed and quiet travel.

I am almost 70 and will not be able to use these lands for much longer on foot. Many would say that I could use a motorized vehicle. I disagree due to the serious impacts of motorized vehicles and mountain bikes and support Alternative D not because I will selfishly use the land but to preserve it. They aren't making any more and we need to save what little we have left. We need to use Alternative D to do this.