

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/2/2019 2:40:20 PM

First name: Kerri

Last name: Marshall

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 300 Cessna Ave

Address2:

City: Friday Harbor

State: WA

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 98250

Country: United States

Email: kerri.marshall@nanoport.com

Phone: 805-697-6460

Comments:

Regarding the USDA Draft Revised Forest Plan for the Custer Gallatin Forest: Specifically, the Chalk Buttes area in the Sioux Geographic Region, I support the designation of Back Country Area (BCA) with the most restrictions on development, commercial uses, and motorized vehicles (Alternative D) due to the uniqueness of the landscape -including beautiful rock formations, wildlife habitat importance, and Native American heritage of the area especially around Fighting Butte area of Chalk Buttes. This area has a special significance to our family and we have spent much of our lives enjoying the scenic and historical beauty of the area near our ranch which has been in our family over a hundred years and we plan on keeping it in our family as long as possible. My mother was born on the ranch, which also has a Forest Service grazing permit on the south side of the Chalk Buttes. Over the years, since as early as I can remember, we have visited the ranch and explored the Chalk Buttes on foot and horseback and have come to love its rich Native American heritage with TeePee rings of rocks, Buffalo Wallows on top of the Buttes, Buffalo trails up the sides of the buttes, and the endless view from atop the Chalk Buttes. In addition to the physical beauty, there is a diverse and healthy year round resident wildlife population including mountain lions, wild turkeys, bald eagles, golden eagles, occasional mountain goat and black bear passing through, white tailed and mule deer and so many more. I have witnessed Golden Eagles in their incredible dives during mating on my solo hikes across the buttes. I have hiked the whole chain of Chalk Buttes with my mother and just a few years ago was able to take an incredible cross country ski journey across the Chalk Buttes with my dad, which turned out to be our last time together up on top of the Buttes, but we still talk about it when I visit him. My parents retired on the ranch and have worked to preserve the natural beauty and natural grasslands that are adjacent to the Chalk Buttes. The Marshall family plans on upholding the legacy and natural beauty of our family ranch next to the Chalk Buttes. We applaud the USDA's Draft Revised Forest Plan and the designation of Back Country Area (BCA) and Alternative D as this will preserve this beautiful area much better than it has been to date as people are starting to move out to the area and drive motor vehicles all over the top of the buttes, start campsites near the buffalo wallows during dry seasons that are already prone to lightening fires, and affect the few springs that exist on the land which will ultimately negatively impact all of the wildlife. If there is anything I can do to help in this effort, please don't hesitate to contact me , I have submitted my information to a profile in your mailing list section.