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Comments:

Comment draft plan - CGNF

May 28, 2019

Forest Plan Revision Team

PO Box 130

Bozeman, MT 59718

Dear Revision Team,

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, Crazy Mountains 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 Alternative D into the plan for the Gallatin and Madison ranges. and guide adaptive management as required by the 2012 planning rule (219.12(a)(5)(vi)).

I was a leader in creating the Cabin Creek Wildlife Management Area into the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. Now it is a snowmobile and ATV playground and wildlife are constantly disturbed due to lack of enforcement. The use of Taylor Fork for long term camping housing by workers at Big Sky has severely disrupted wildlife migration patterns. The northern part of the GYE is one of the most unique in the world . This portion of the CGNF has 3 outstanding resource values of high quality watersheds, wildlife like nowhere else in the Lower 48 and wildlands that have been protected by S 393. Lee Metcalf knew the protection of these lands would be contentious and they have been threatened on numerous occasions.

I see the biggest threat from the burgeoning population of Bozeman and Big Sky. These mostly short term or new recreationists are recreating on USFS lands to get the fastest and most thrilling bang for their buck. Mountain Bike riders have been proven to be detrimental to the

grizzly bear and elk due to their fast and quiet use. There should be somewhere for this wildlife to be protected from human activity. Let us be proud to not manage our lands for the lowest common denominator. 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. With warming temperatures and increased use the headwaters are even more threatened.

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. I support Alternative D as set forth in your DEIS.

Respectfully,

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