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Comments:

I had the pleasure of working on the Gallatin National Forest in the 1980's-1990's. I have provided pack support to Forest Service partners in the A-B Wilderness, and continue to recreate there. I am intimately familiar with the A-B Wilderness, the Crazy Mountains, the Gallatin Range, as well as the Pryor Mountains.

In the Absaroka-Beartooth area I support protecting the following roadless areas as recommended Wilderness: Line Creek Plateau, Red Lodge-Hellroaring Plateau, North Fork, Strawberry Creek, Chico Creek, Emigrant Peak, and Dome Mountain.

Regardless of the management complexities of the Crazy Mountains, the Forest Service should manage the area to preserve its wilderness character and work closely with the Crow tribe to honor the past and present cultural significance of this unique mountain range. In addition, there should be no expansion of mechanized or motorized uses in the Crazy Mountains.

I support implementing the Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement. This agreement recommends Wilderness designation for key areas providing protection for key wildlife habitat and connectivity corridors. Protections of these areas in the Gallatin and Madison mountain ranges are doubly important as the human population continues to expand in Park, Gallatin, and Madison counties.

The Pryor Mountains are another unique mountain range that include ecotypes found nowhere else in Montana, or the world. I support the following roadless areas in the Pryor Mountains as recommended Wilderness: Lost Water, Big Pryor, Punch Bowl, and Bear Canyon. The wild character and cultural significance of these areas are worthy of permanent protection.

Gallatin Custer National Forest Wilderness Study Areas and recommended Wilderness should be managed as designated Wilderness, allowing only foot and horse travel, and not allowing any mechanized or motorized use.

Thank you for your consideration.