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Comments:

Virginia, thank you for your response.

Please include this response to your email as a comment to the Draft Forest Plan.

Is pack goat use currently allowed in all areas of the Custer-Gallatin National Forest? If so, where is the analysis of the impact of closing off certain areas, under the action alternatives, to pack goat use? An analysis needs to be done, PRIOR to the Decision being signed, of the effects of these actions on pack goat users, as well as an analysis of the effects of closing off these areas to the risk of disease transmission between pack goats (not just all domestic goats, but specifically pack goats), and wild sheep.

Under "Suitability," the Draft Plan states: "

Alternatives B and C: Recreational use of pack goats is not suitable in the Madison, Henrys Lake, and Gallatin Mountains; Absaroka-Beartooth; or Pryor Mountain Geographic Areas.

Alternative D: Recreational use of pack goats is not suitable forestwide.

Alternative E: Recreational use of pack goats is suitable forestwide."

Where can I find documentation that these areas are "not suitable?" Please send me a link to that analysis.

It seems like a bit of a "catch-22," to close off certain areas under Alternatives B,C, and E, without evaluating the impacts first, with only a vague hint at doing an analysis in the future.

I will be submitting additional comments on the Plan, particularly the decision to close off certain areas to recreational pack goat use, without conducting a risk assessment or any real analysis before the Decision is signed, especially with no mention of a timeframe for conducting one in the future. Thank you--Irene Saphra