



Protecting Montana's wildlife,
land, waters and hunting & fishing
heritage for future generations.

March 1, 2018

Custer Gallatin National Forest
Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team
P.O. Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

RE: Comment draft plan – Custer Gallatin National Forest

Dear Forest Plan Revision Team:

The Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is Montana's oldest and largest sportsmen's conservation organization. Since, 1936, we've led efforts to protect Montana's abundant fish and wildlife, our natural lands and waters, and public access for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation. Our dedicated staff, board of directors, and affiliate clubs maintain this legacy.

To hunters, anglers and other wildlife recreationists, it's obvious how important healthy landscapes are to sustaining the wildlife we all care about. The vast public lands within the Gallatin Range – owned by all Americans and held in trust for future generations – provides secure big game habitat, supports numerous game and non-game species, and is crucial to Montana's booming outdoor recreation economy. Ensuring this landscape is managed against the threats of development and over-use from recreationists is essential.

The Montana Wildlife Federation supports the proposed plan set forth by the Gallatin Forest Partnership (GFP) for the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area in the Gallatin Range. Through cooperation and compromise, the GFP has crafted a plan that hikers, hunters, mountain bike clubs, and other stakeholders have agreed upon. The plan would safeguard important wildlife habitat; increase, connect, and protect the wild character of backcountry areas, and maintain a variety of recreation opportunities in the region.

Montana is blessed to have large, wild, and intact landscapes like the Gallatin Range. This common-sense, widely supported plan represents an opportunity for the Forest Service to protect and enhance one of America's most iconic landscapes, both game and non-game species, recreation opportunities, and Montana's outdoor economy. We respectfully ask for your support for this proposal. By working together, we can preserve this landscape for future generations.

Sincerely,

Dave Chadwick
Executive Director