

Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision #50185

June 6, 2019

Mary Erickson, Supervisor
Custer-Gallatin National Forest
PO Box 130
Bozeman, MT 59771

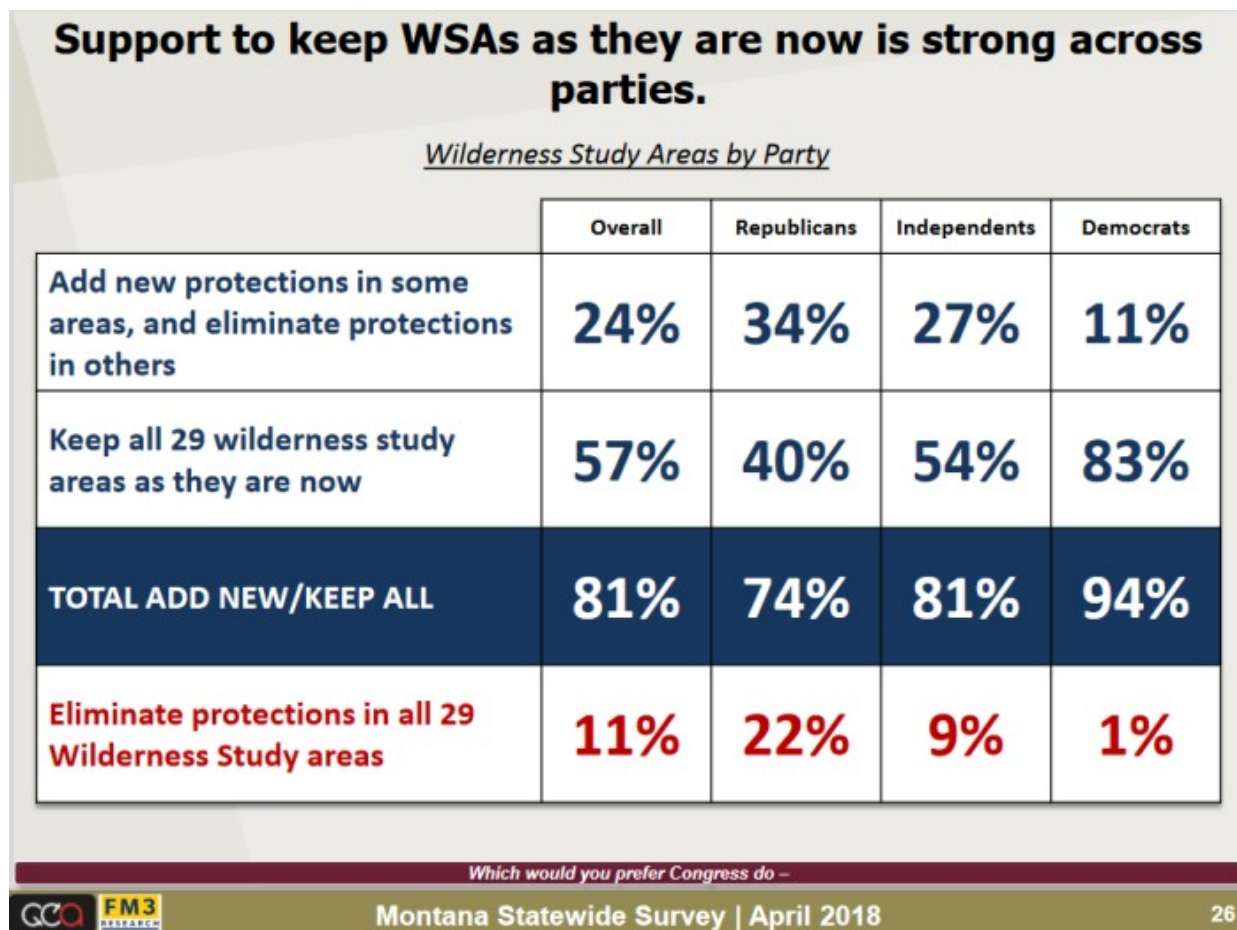
Comments re: Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Proposed Action

Dear Ms. Erickson, Thanks for this opportunity to comment on the Proposed Action for the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan.

I am submitting my amendment comments supporting Alternative D from June 1st.

I would like to submit a value statement that the majority of the public, nationwide and in Montana, have supported maintaining and expanding wilderness. Below is a screenshot from the University of Montana, Crown of the Continent and Greater Yellowstone Initiative 2018 poll on public lands wilderness. Forest Service should be managing for greater wilderness for future generations.

https://crown-yellowstone.umt.edu/documents/surveys/UM_Statewide-Survey-Presentation_2018_Key-Findings.pdf



2.4.38 Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA)

After looking at your Crazy Mountains roadless area map, you need to restore the rest of the roadless areas to the map and exclude timber harvest from these roadless areas, such as the Shields, around the cabins, trailheads and trails, which would not only diminish the camping, and hiking benefit, but would disrupt wildlife habitat security (there are sensitive species wolverine there). No timber harvest in the Crazy Mountains.

2.4.46 Backcountry Areas (BCA) Standards (FW-STD-BCA)

I support all of your standards except 07 New access to and development of minerals shall minimize impacts to backcountry areas. I object to new access and development of minerals in the Crazy Mountains.

2.4.12 Airfields, Aircraft Landing Strips (AIRFIELDS) Suitability (FW-SUIT-AIRFIELDS)

I support Alternative D: Backcountry aircraft landing strips are not suitable anywhere on the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

2.4.16 Recreation Settings Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

Concerning recreational and other public access, I support the Crazies semi-primitive non-motorized complying with the 2006 Travel Management Plan for the Crazies.

You need to restore public access from the private landowner obstructions and destruction of public lands signage on the semi-primitive motorized from the Shields #258 down #267 to Ibex, per the Travel Plan, and the Motor Vehicle Use Map trails open to motorcycles, mountain bikes and seasonal use.

USDA USFS Gallatin National Forest, August 2002 Briefing Paper on National Forest System Trails across Private Land from my FOIA (13-16 PDF pages):

“The growing demand for dispersed recreation on public lands, and the changes and trends in private landownership, have brought considerable attention to the trails issue on this Forest. At an increasing rate, landowners are questioning the status of trails across private land. Private land within and adjacent to this Forest continues to be sold. New owners may or may not recognize the existing public access through their lands. Some trails on private land are being lost through subdivision, closure or obliteration. As a result, it is critical for the Gallatin NF to continue to have a strong and consistent policy and presence in: (a) signing and maintaining our trail system across private lands; (b) defending historic trail access rights if challenged; and (c) perfecting trail access rights across private lands whenever that opportunity exists.”

In the Direction and Policy section they wrote, “Under FLPMA and FSM 5460 direction...In situation where an existing NFS trail crosses private lands, and no deeded easement exist, the Forest Service position is as follows: The United States has acquired a right-of-way from the trail through development, maintenance and continuous use of the trail. As a matter of law, the Forest Service believes that there is a public access easement for the trail. The Forest Service is a beneficiary of this public right of access, will continue its efforts to defend the public's right of access.(1) Protect and maintain historic evidence, including trail blazes,

signs, maps, photos and maintenance records.

(2) Maintain and sign the trail on a regular basis, and keep records and photos of this maintenance, and

(3) Take prompt action in the event that landowners threaten or take action to close or obliterate the trail.”

Additionally, the USFS's Rights by Prescription/Protecting United States Interests document, providing the process for prescription, including establishing documented historical use, maintenance records, maps, photographs, records and plats, trail logs, etc.

The Custer Gallatin National Forest needs to protect and maintain all our Forest Service trails in the Crazy Mountains, per policy and regulations.

Thank you,

Kathryn QannaYahu
1007 N. Warren St.
Helena, MT 59601
406-579-7748