

David S. McKeith

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July 20, 2019

Forest Supervisor, Mary Erickson
Custer Gallatin National Forest
P.O. Box 130
10 E Babcock Ave
Bozeman, MT 59771

Concerning: Gallatin Forest Partnership, Montana

Dear Ms. Erickson ~

Under your watch and that of officers who sat at your desk before you, there persists a declared war, indiscriminate and reckless, against precious ecosystems, without which the human race cannot exist. Herein lies a ruinous absence of foresight. History remembers fools.

In this serious matter my thinking moves to a much-needed philosophical level: *We humans are all members of a vast natural community of life for which we must feel indebted and to ward which we must pledge ourselves to protect and nurture. The future of our race of beings depends on it. Clearly there is a strong sense of humility in this position.*

Community, indebtedness, humility.

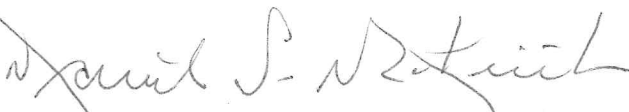
I feel strongly that this is the high road that must underlie environmental policy. And I fervently desire the people of this nation will hear this defense of right conduct from you and your entire staff. You will not find yourself a General without troops, for there continues to rise wise and insistent defenders of what is right conduct toward Earth-as-home.

In this spirit I urge you to put your fullest voice and pen in support of Forest Service approval of and support for the widely approved plan of the Gallatin Forest Partnership in Montana. That endeavor is a remarkably balanced vision for a serious situation.

Here, Ms. Erickson, is the opportunity for you to continue to distinguish yourself and the Forest Service. Thank you for doing so.

My mind and heart are focused there, for I have family in the Rockies, visit often, have done field research in those archives, and have owned pieces of land within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Sincerely yours,



David S. McKeith, PhD
Professor Emeritus