

May 9, 2019

Jim Hubbard  
Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment  
U. S. Forest Service, Dept. of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-1111

Re: Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

Encompassing more than three million acres, the Custer Gallatin National Forest in Montana is a stronghold for iconic wildlife species like grizzly bears, gray wolves, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose, which are very sensitive to human disturbance and development, and are teetering on the brink.

As a gateway to Yellowstone National Park, the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is home to Montana's tallest peak, the steep, rocky mass known as Granite Peak, which tops out at 12,799 feet. The 155,000-acre Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (HPBH WSA) in the northern Gallatin Range adjacent to Yellowstone National Park is one of the crown jewels of the Northern Rockies and a stronghold for threatened wildlife. Meanwhile, the Lee Metcalf Wilderness is distributed across the Madison Range in southwest Montana. Elsewhere on the Custer Gallatin National Forest, remote buttes and bluffs stretch across southeastern Montana all the way to northwestern South Dakota.

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Thank you for your attention to my sincere comments.

Very truly yours,

*Richard Stanley*  
Richard Stanley  
5 Sherwood Ln.  
W. Simsbury, CT  
06097

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M. Renee Taylor  
M. RENEE TAYLOR  
12 CUSTER DR.  
WINDSOR, CT 06095

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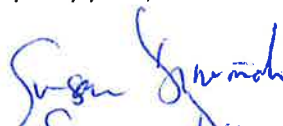
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Very truly yours,

  
Susan Dimmock  
26D Robbins Lane  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

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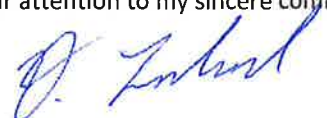
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DENNIS LOCKWOOD  
143 Bushy Hill Rd  
Simsbury CT 06070

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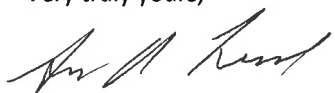
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Sam Lowbel  
83 Furnace Ave W2  
Stafford Springs CT 06076



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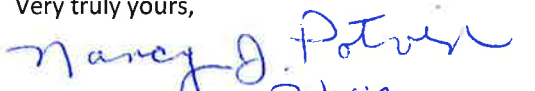
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Nancy J. Potvin  
48 Arundale Rd.  
Manchester, CT 06042

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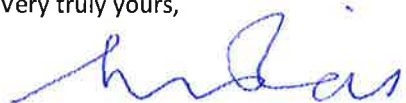
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Srianee Dras  
140 Flagg Road, Apt R  
West Hartford CT 06117

May 9, 2019

Dan Smith  
Deputy Director  
National Park Service  
US Dept. of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Cumberland Island National Seashore and Wilderness Proposed Management Plan

Dear Mr. Smith:

Cumberland Island National Seashore and Wilderness, off the coast of southern Georgia, is one of the gems of America's national park system, but the National Park Service ("NPS") must preserve the wild characteristics Cumberland Island was set aside to protect.

Once the private enclave of wealthy families, the federal government acquired the island in the 1960s to save it from real estate development like that which had beset many of the barrier islands. In 1982, Congress designated much of the island's northern two-thirds as the Cumberland Island Wilderness, or as potential wilderness in areas where private existing rights would eventually expire. Already quite a treasure, Cumberland Island was on the path to wild restoration and becoming one of the premier Wildernesses in the National Wilderness Preservation System.


Unfortunately, NPS has historically and tragically failed to keep the promise of a wild Cumberland Island. It has allowed excessive and unlawful motor vehicle use in the Wilderness, prioritized saving structures rather than allow nature to reclaim the Wilderness, and the list goes on.

The NPS is now embarking on a visitor use management plan. Please make sure it includes the following:

- \* Keep Seashore access to the daily 300 person limit.
- \* Prohibit all motor vehicle use, including access to the beach, that isn't specifically authorized by private existing rights.
- \* Bicycle use should be banned north of the Wilderness's southern boundary. Substituting automobile access with bike access might seem to make sense, but would make it easier for bikes to illegally enter the Wilderness.
- \* Keep commercialization to a minimum and ban/end commercial vehicle tours in the Wilderness.
- \* Rather than build new campgrounds in the Wilderness, consider allowing dispersed camping limited to current numbers and monitored/restricted, if necessary, to prevent resource damage, protect imperiled species, protect the beach, etc.
- \* All NPS decisions should promote restoring a wild Cumberland Island. For example, in addition to the points already mentioned, the NPS should allow natural fire to play its role in the Wilderness. Wilderness visitors deserve to experience an authentic Wilderness, not one where natural processes are controlled by managers.

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Very truly yours,

  
Srianee Dias  
140 Flagg Road, Apt R  
West Hartford CT 06117



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*Louise Michlin*  
Louise Michlin,  
139 Old Farns Road,  
Tolland, CT 06790

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As part of the Forest Plan revision process, the Gallatin Range—stretching from Bozeman to Yellowstone National Park—including the HPBH WSA, is particularly at risk of being sacrificed as a motorized and mechanized recreational playground for the exploding populations of Big Sky and Bozeman.

Wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the draft forest plan, with the suggested improvements outlined below, would offer the best protection for the Gallatin Range and other critical wildlife habitat across the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Alternative D creates 39 Recommended Wilderness areas totaling over 711,000 acres, including the Gallatin Range, Lionhead, Crazy Mountains, Bridger Range, Cowboys Heaven, Deer Creeks, Line Creek Plateau, Emigrant Peak, West Fork Rock Creek, Red Lodge Creek, Pryor Mountains, and Tongue River Breaks. The Gallatin Range Forest Plan must include the following:

- \* I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan; however, they must be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan. The following three points also expand on the importance for the wild Gallatin Range.
- \* The plan should prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection, in the Recommended Wilderness areas so as to preserve their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.
- \* The draft plan has little direction for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The current wilderness management plans allows destructively large groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas. Research shows that impacts increase significantly when group-sizes exceed eight head of stock and 12 people. The Forest Service should reduce group size limits accordingly so as to protect all Wildernesses on the forest from harm. Further, the forest plan should put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which significantly alters the areas' natural conditions.
- \* The plan must address the issue of human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Eliminating fish stocking would likely go a long way toward solving this problem, but additional measures must be included if needed.

Thank you for your attention to my sincere comments.

Very truly yours,

Cynthia Blayer  
3 Pontiac Rd.  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
Cynthia Blayer

May 9, 2019

Jim Hubbard  
Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment  
U. S. Forest Service, Dept. of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-1111

Re: Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision

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Christine Feely  
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282 Westpoint Terrace  
W Hartford, CT 06107

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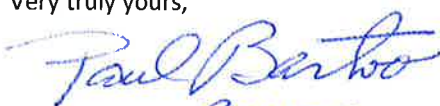
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PAUL BARTOO  
202 LAUREL ST  
HARTFORD CT 06105