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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live on HWY 87 and encourage the wilderness designation along MT HWY 87 for the Custer Gallatin Forest due to the earthquake area being the highest 150 year designation in Montana as shown in the earthquake attachment 2 below. I have also copied the suggested designation as a wilderness area and would suggest the designated area extend to the Gallatin Forest boundary which it fails to show in the attachment 1 below. I have hiked and lived here since we purchased property and built along MT Highway 87 in 1996 and see bears in the area or signs of bear activity (Scat, Footprints in snow, Claw-marks on trees, Pine Tree Seeds feasting removal or actual sightings) frequently each year. Because of limited habitat, the Grizzly bears are actually moving out the Black Bear population in trying to find sufficient feeding areas. The designation of Wilderness area should continue and extend to the Gallatin Forest boundary along MT HWY 87.

Thank you for your help in conserving wildlife habitat. Valerie Hansen