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Comments: PLEASE ACCEPT THIS LIST OF SCIENTISTS AND WILDLANDS SUPPORTERS FOR A LARGE WILDERNESS IN THE GALLATIN RANGE.

As biologists, wildlife advocates, and members of the scientific community, we hereby express our strong support for maintaining the ecological integrity of the Gallatin Range by establishing a 230,000-acre or larger Wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act. We consider Wilderness designation to be the [ldquo]Gold Standard[rdquo] for preserving wildlands and ecological values. The scientific community recognizes that large protected areas connected to other large protected regions is the best way to preserve high-quality wildlife habitat and assure the continuance of essential ecological processes like wildfire, predation and migration. We strongly encourage all citizens to contact the Custer Gallatin National Forest before June 5th and tell them that you support Alternative D and recommend a Gallatin Wilderness of 230,000 acres.