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Comments: Alt.D Custer Gallatin Nat. Forest Plan

See attachment s.v.p.

As a Dutchman I support Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson adopting Alternative D, the environmentally preferred alternative in the Custer Gallatin National Forest plan.

I also support Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten listing American bison as a species of conservation concern in Region 1.

Please strengthen Alternative D by adopting the following standards and desired conditions:

[bull] The best available scientific information supports strengthening and adopting alternative D with enforceable standards for American bison, bighorn sheep, and threatened grizzly bears.

[bull] Conserving American bison viability and diversity should be a forest-wide standard.

[bull] Freedom for American bison to roam National Forest habitat should be a forest-wide standard.

[bull] Restoring habitat connectivity for American bison should be a forest-wide standard.

[bull] To restore connectivity, and conserve the viability and diversity of American bison's genetically distinct subpopulations, the Custer Gallatin needs to adopt a standard to close and not permit cattle grazing allotments in American bison range.

[bull] To restore connectivity, and conserve the viability and diversity of native bighorn sheep populations, the Custer Gallatin needs to adopt a standard to not permit domestic sheep grazing in bighorn sheep range.

[bull] The best available scientific information supports including enforceable forest-wide standards to protect key linkage areas, habitat connectivity, and food security for threatened grizzly bears.

[bull] The Custer Gallatin must adopt a forest-wide standard for all grazing permits requiring [ldquo]let-down[rdquo] fencing and remove barriers that impede migration of native species.

[bull] Adopt a desired condition for the Custer Gallatin to be a leader in the development of wildlife safe passages and measures on highways constructed in migration corridors on the National Forest.

[bull] Restore more wetlands, creek banks, pond edges, and riparian habitat through strong standards and more yearly projects to benefit American bison and native species diversity.

[bull] The Custer Gallatin has a duty to fulfill its[rsquo] responsibilities and trust obligations safeguarding treaty rights, sacred species, sacred sites, and traditional cultural places of significance to aboriginal people.

Relying on the best available scientific information, please select Alternative D and adopt strong standards for American bison, bighorn sheep, threatened grizzly bears, wilderness, linkage corridors, habitat connectivity, and water.