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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Custer- Gallatin National Forest, Forest Plan Revision Comments

Alternative A, No Action

Not a true No Alternative draft

38,313 acres of Backcountry Areas added.

Alternative B

Mostly positive proposals of Recreational emphasis on 8 areas that include, The Main Boulder, Cooke City, Rock Cr -Red Lodge, Yellowstone River, Hyalite, Hebgen area that maintain motorized, and mechanized uses.

Gallatin River Day Use recreational emphasis puts campgrounds dispersed camping and overnight stock camping at Sage cr and other are in jeopardy of being eliminated.

Backcountry Areas (BA) of over 125,000 acres are proposed

This includes the Buffalo Horn BA, that has 4 single track trails that will be threatened to be closed to motorized and mechanized travel up Porcupine Cr. These include trails 34, 66, 160, 199. I do not support this!

This also threatens both access and maintenance of the Big Sky snowmobile trail that is part of the National Historic Register.

These also overlap the (HPBH) Hyalite, Porcupine, Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (WSA) historic summer and winter trails and play areas that are only partially open and or closed by a Special Order Closure since the FS has limit Travel Plan within the WSA. . I do not support this!

Cowboy Heaven- threatened to limited chainsaws for trail maintenance. . I do not support this!

Recommended Wilderness Areas (RWA)

This also threatens both access and maintenance of the Big Sky snowmobile trail that is part of the National Historic Register.

These also overlap the (HPBH) Hyalite, Porcupine, Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (WSA) historic summer and winter trails and play areas that are only partially open and or closed by a Special Order Closure since the FS has limit Travel Plan within the WSA. This includes Rock cr, Tom Miner, Sunlight, Crest Trail, Windy Pass, Big Creek, Cliff Cr, and Lewis Cr. . I do not support this!

Communications towers on Eaglehead, and other surrounding areas would be eliminated. Competitive events historically held would also be banned. . I do not support this!

Pryors trails in the BA 2095 and 2091 are under threat of being closed because of the RWA. This is an important trail for loop opportunities. I do not support this!

Proactive Bison support may also threaten winter motorized access to winter trailheads along highway 191. This would include Teepee, Sage cr-Taylor fk, Buck cr, 320 Ranch, Portal Moose, Swa, Storm Castle, and Little Bear

cr parking. . I do not support this!

Gallatin Key Linkage threatens motorized summer and winter recreation in the Bear Canyon area. . I do not support this!

Stillwater Complex, 102,045 acres maintains allocation of minerals I support, along with current recreational uses inside the this area. I support this.

#### Alternative C

Mostly postive proposals of Recreational Emphasis (RE)on 8 areas that include, The Main Boulder, Cooke City, Rock Cr -Red Lodge, Yellowstone River, Hyalite, Hebgen area that maintain motorized, and mechanized uses. I support this section.

Gallatin River Day Use recreational emphasis puts campgrounds dispersed camping and overnight stock camping in jepordy of being eliminated. . I do not support this!

#### Backcountry areas

Backcountry Areas (BA)of over 208,000 acres are proposed

This includes the Buffalo Horn BA, that has 4 single track trails that will be threatened to be closed to motorized and mechanized travel up Porcupine Cr. These include trails 34, 66,160, 199. . I do not support this!

#### West Pine BA

Threatens motorized and mechanized recreation, maintenance and grazing allotments including infrastruture for water tanks and infrastructure to pump water to mitigate stock water issues in riparian areas. . I do not support this!

West Bridgers BA , this threatens both motorized Summer single track uses, and winter motorized uses. I do not support this!

Crazy Mountains BA, a threat to summer single track, ATV , and winter motorized uses in the Cottonwood and Rock cr drainages. . I do not support this!

Proactive Bison support may also threaten winter motorized access to winter trailheads along highway 191. . I do not support this!

Gallatin Key Linkage threatens summer and winter recreation in the Bear Canyon area. . I do not support this!

Stillwater Complex, 102,045 acres maintains allocation of minerals I support, along with current recreational uses inside the this area. I support this.

#### Recommended Wilderness Areas (RWA)

This also threatens both access and maintenance of the Big Sky snowmobile trail that is part of the National Historic Register.

These also overlap the (HPBH) Hyalite, Porcupine, Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (WSA) historic summer and winter trails and play areas that are only partially open and or closed by a Special Order Closure since the FS has limited Travel Plan within the WSA. This includes Rock cr, Tom Miner, Sunlight, Crest Trail, Windy Pass, Big Creek, Cliff Cr, and Lewis Cr. I do not support this!

Communications towers on Eaglehead, and other surrounding areas would be eliminated. Competitive events historically held would also be banned. I do not support this!

Mechanized corridor through the existing Lionhead RWA on the Continental Divide trail. I support this,

#### Alternative D

This Alternative With the RWA's that I do not support, would be devastating to multiple use recreation, all but closing public lands down to just a few!! This would force an increasing population into smaller less quality areas causing problems. As a personal stock user this will make maintenance on trails increasing difficult. With limited funding for on the ground people and resources. Making efficient use both mechanized equipment and forest service personnel and volunteers of all groups to maintain and mitigate any problems on any trails. A chain saw with one person is far more efficient than 4-6 people using crosscut saws. I know this from personal experience, and being an owner and user of crosscut saws in 2' 3' 4' and 6' lengths on the wilderness areas on the Custer-Gallatin using chainsaws.

RWA winter and summer restrictions would include most popular winter areas and summer trails within the Gallatin range, both current and within historic use inside the WSA.

This includes RWA's of

Buck Cr, This RWA is One of the most popular winter motorized use areas, groomed access, high elevation good snow coverage. This would hurt the efforts of the FS of making a loop opportunity for summer users, and access for one of the only above tree line motorized rides.

Cabin Cr RWA north is a threat to a popular winter motorized use areas, high elevation good snow coverage. This includes the Waipiti to Pika Point single track motorized that would be closed.

Cabin Cr South, This RWA is a popular winter motorized use areas groomed access, high elevation good snow coverage. This

Lionhead, One of the most popular winter motorized use areas from West Yellowstone groomed access, high elevation good snow coverage. Good expert riding.

Tepee cr, One of the most popular winter motorized use areas, groomed access, high elevation good snow coverage.

Chico peaks, This RWA would seriously hamper winter motorized recreation, in the Paradise Valley. This area is the only highly technical area for expert riders, other than Cooke City and the Crazy's that have moderate to

expert riding opportunities that requires a long drive from Livingston. The rest of Mill cr offers very low quality of winter motorized uses due to current wilderness boundaries, terrain, snow coverage, parking and closed areas. Emigrant Gulch, The current winter motorized use in this RWA ties in with the Chico peaks area and offers the same expert opportunities. It would be nice to see the south side of Emigrant gulch opened to Winter motorized to the Six Mile ridge that is currently closed.

Strawberry RWA may offer some technical riding also, but only with extraordinary snow coverage and or permission to pass through private lands.

Tie cr, This RWA offers limited amount of winter motorized use. Access is problematic  
Deer cr, This RWA offers opportunities for winter motorized riding, especially up on the East Boulder plateau area. This would also hurt summer motorized - multiple use riding in the East Boulder- Elk cr, Deer Creeks, and Bridger cr drainages.

West Bridgers, This RWA would hurt opportunities for both winter motorized and summer multiple uses this motorized and mechanized uses.

Crazys. Most of the Crazys is currently closed. Only the Cottonwood drainage is open to winter motorized recreation. And very limited summer ATV and single track trails, including the low line trail currently under litigation and a proposed trail that has no motorized use.

All other RWA's would be restricted to maintenance standards of existing wilderness areas lowering trail standards.

Recreational Emphasis would be confined to the Gallatin & Yellowstone rivers, and force more people into the Hyalite RA.

Most proactive Bison expansion threatening motorized and other multiple uses access in the Gallatin.

I do not support any of the above mentioned and other RWA's in Alternative D

## Alternative E

Recreational Emphasis would include Cooke City, Main Boulder, , Hebgen, Yellowstone River, Storm Castle, Hyalite, Bridger Bowl, West flk of Rock Cr, Rock cr- Red Lodge. I support this

Gallatin Day use RA on portions of the Gallatin river will threaten campgrounds, and dispersed camping

The Lionhead RWA would be replaced by a expanded Lionhead BA that would threaten winter motorized use in one of the most popular areas in the Hebgen basin.

HPBH WSA would be overlapped by a expanded HPBH BA. Backcountry Areas (BA) of over 173,000 acres are proposed

This includes the Buffalo Horn BA, that has 4 single track trails that will be threatened to be closed to motorized and mechanized travel up Porcupine Cr. These include trails 34, 66, 160, 199.

This also threatens both access and maintenance of the Big Sky snowmobile trail that is part of the National Historic Register.

These also overlap the (HPBH) Hyalite, Porcupine, Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (WSA) historic summer and winter trials and play areas that are only partially open and or closed by a Special Order Closure since the

FS has limit Travel Plan within the WSA. The WSA needs to be settled before adding another layer of red tape that will make the current WSA and Travel Plan management even more problematic.  
This also threatens Communication towers in the Gallatin range, and Grazing leases in or next to BA

The Wild and Scenic designation in all the Alternatives on the East Rosebud River threatens existing campgrounds along the river. I do not support this current regulations will keep that section of the river safe.

I was disappointed the CGNF did not provide an true no change alternative, I would of also liked to seen expanded areas of multiple use, this includes motorized- mechanized, and stock use recreation.

I would like to see more recreation emphasis areas include for both motorized- mechanized and other users. Split it up for both winter and summer designations. For winter I would like to the The Cooke city area, Main and East Boulder drainages, Hebgen basin, Crazy's, Bridgers, the current popular winter motorized recreation areas in the Gallatin river drainage. Mill cr and Emigrant drainages currently open.

I would like to see a historic area reopened to winter motorized recreation in the Bridgers closed in the travel plan due to a few personal in the forest service who are no longer here. This would raise the quality of this experience 5 fold for many people. See Attached map

The Forest Service failed to provide a "No Action" Alternative.

The Forest Service failed to provide a "Preferred" Alternative.

Page 89 of the DEIS. Objectives (FW-OBJ-RT) 03. All alternatives (B,C,D,E) propose to close additional miles of roads which further limits access. No alternative was provided for comment which increased access opportunities.

Page 94 of DEIS. Objectives (FW-OBJ-REC) 01. All alternatives (B,C,D,E) propose to "Remove or relocate existing recreation facilities including dispersed sites. The "specialist report" recommended expanding camping and recreation facilities yet No alternative was provided to the public which would have increased these recreation opportunities.

I request the Forest Service provide a "No Action" and a "Preferred" alternative. I request the Forest Service provide alternatives that increase road and trail access. I request the Forest Service provide alternatives that increase recreation and camping facilities.

As stated on page 84 2.4.8, code of Federal Regulations 228 "Citizens are guaranteed the right to prospect and explore lands reserved from the public domain and open to mineral development. The disposal of these mineral resources is discretionary. "Please explain this discrepancy in statements.

The DEIS under 2.4.8 does not discuss in FW-GO-EMIN, FW-STD-EMIN, FW-DC- EMIN, or FW-GDL- EMIN the protection or guaranteed right to access these minerals. I request the Forest Service include language reflecting the rights protected under the 36 CFR 228 and the Mining Law of 1872 in the Standards and Guidelines section of the DEIS and also in the language of the new Forest Plan.

Page 79 Table 15, Lands suitable for timber production of approximately 500 to 600 thousand acres while annual treatment acres on page 81, alternatives B,C,D, and E reflect a mere 5 to 8 thousand acres treated annually. This very limited amount of treatment (<1% of suitable) will never effectively treat what is needed.

Page 79 and 80 of the DEIS states: Both the projected wood sale quantity and the projected timber sale quantity are limited by the projected fiscal capability....." The DEIS failed to mention of an increased capacity based on the statutory appropriation of the Montana Legislature to the Good Neighbor Authority which will increase funding. For planning and implementation of timber sale quantities based on the State's contribution to this effort. Page 50, Objectives (FW-OBJ-FIRE) 02 suggests a minimum of 37,000 acres burned annually. While on page 81, Objectives (FWOBJ-TIM) 03 alternatives B, C,D, and E, suggest vegetation management treatments on 5 to 8 thousand acres annually. Vegetation treatment is superior to fire as smoke from both wildfire and prescribed burns produce toxic chemicals which according to the Montanan DEQ website cause premature mortality".

According to reports the people in Seeley Lake are still experiencing reduced lung function nearly a year after the fires in 2018.

I request the Forest Service increase the annual vegetation treatment in an effort to reduce fire severity, reduce toxic chemical emissions, and increase timber resources to support local mills and communities.

In closing I am a 5th gen park County resident, We have owned the Same property since 1881 that was homesteaded. We have a 7th generation children living on the ranch now. Shorthill lake on old maps now called George lake currently is name after my Great great grandfather David Shorthill, ( he hit the first major gold strike in Emigrant gulch 1864 after leaving Jim Bridgers party) and Joe George my great grandfather, That we still border the forest service and the current trail.

I have a historic, cultural and spiritual connection to all this country within this Custer-Gallatin forest. I have seen most of it by many types of multiple use travel that includes hiking, stock, camping, spulinking ,motorcycle, atv, 4x4, car, hunting, snowmobile and snowbike. Generations of family have benifited and gave back from grazing, mining, logging, and recreational for our lively hoods and others.

I know the history of the land and wildlife here, and I can safely say that grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, ungulates, and many other animals have flourished in the past 50 years even with multiple use that includes, motorized recreation, logging, mineral exploration, and grazing. I have also seen a never ending amount of restrictions and closures to many people of multiple uses of the local communties that impact, many peoples both spiritually, culturally, and business. These issue were not taken into account for many people for this process and past proccess. It is time to manage our forest proactivley for everybody. Not a select few in well funded special interest groups who want to close it.