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With major die-offs of animals around the world, and massive extinctions forecast for the future, now is the time -- and possibly the last chance we'll get -- to preserve wild lands so vital to survival of a diversity of animal species, including our own. Along with many friends and neighbors, I hope you will act in defense of our natural heritage by adopting Alternative D which recommends a suitable percentage of forest as wilderness , not only in the Gallatin Range, but in other vital regions of the Custer Gallatin National Forest such as the unique and wonderful Crazy Mountains .

To some, there is never a right time to set aside land as wilderness, and many before us have fought hard for the wilderness we have today. But what a magnificent legacy to leave for future generations. Please take the long view and do the right thing.