

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/10/2020 3:01:02 AM

First name: Doug

Last name: Gledhill

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Custer Gallatin Land Management Plan Revision Objection Template

Objector's name: Doug Gledhill

Address: 1270 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT

Phone # or email: gledhill_d@yahoo.com

Name of lead objector (if more than one):

Please specify whether this objection is to the Custer Gallatin Land Management Plan or the Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern (SCC) by checking the applicable box:

Land Management Plan ☒ X

Regional Forester's List of SCC

Statement of issues and/or parts of the plan revision to which the objection applies:

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, of which the Custer Gallatin is a part, is sadly the only remaining intact ecosystem left in the lower 48 states.

Biologist Ed Wilson has stated that the global extinction crisis may be directly threatened to human survival than global climate change¹ and he advocates for preserving habitats in reserves large enough to maintain wild populations sustainably.

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is one such place but for it to maintain its health and biodiversity, the wilderness it contains must be maintained. Numerous other scientists have stated this as well.

The proposed forest plan falls short in protecting LLRHW areas within the Wilderness Study Area but also fails to consider acres outside the WSA, where there exists plenty of acres deserving of protection under the Wilderness Act of 1964, which is the only standard necessary to ensure adequate protection, when also adequately enforced that not only includes the Gallatin range but the Bridger range as well.

The establishment of wildlife corridors and related infrastructure outside of critical protected areas as the plan suggests is also critical to migratory species faced with a changing climate. The focus should be on protecting the core habitat which is experiencing increased human impacts that threaten its integrity long term.

Also, the plan excludes bison from the forest and fails to include enforceable standards for migratory bison, which unduly complicates the issues bison are faced with. The politicalization of bison has for too long impeded their traditional migratory routes to needed wintering range that exists in the forest outside of Yellowstone Park.

The plan fails to make the uniqueness of the ecosystem a priority, preferring to pander to other interests who have numerous opportunities to recreate outside the ecosystem, while wildlife aren't afforded that option.

I feel the plan should be revisited with a greater appreciation for the wildlife and wilderness character of this ecosystem that makes it the centerpiece of this region.

Concise statement explaining the objection and suggestion how the proposed plan should be improved:

The reasons for this objection are: Not enough area is being proposed for the Wilderness Study Area. Wildlife

are needlessly being sacrificed for more recreation areas that are not needed. Wildlife corridors are very important in helping the needless deaths of wildlife the motorized vehicles and bicycles.

Proposed Solution: More land should be set aside for the Wilderness Study Area. Many more wildlife corridors should be added to help mitigate needless wildlife deaths.

Statement demonstrating the link between objection and prior formal comments:

Signature: Doug Gledhill

Send written objections to: USDA Forest Service, Objection Reviewing Officer, Northern Region, 26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays. Given current health and safety guidelines an appointment must be made in advance.

Send objection online at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=50185>
Electronic submissions must be submitted in a format that is readable with optical character recognition software (e.g., Word, PDF, Rich Text) and must be searchable. An automated response will confirm that your electronic objection has been received.

Send faxed objections to: (406) 329-3411.

The fax coversheet must include a subject line with "Custer Gallatin Land Management Plan Objection," or "Custer Gallatin Species of Conservation Concern" and should specify the number of pages being submitted. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.