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Objector:

Alex Russell

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RE: Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision #50185

Dear Supervisor Erickson;

I strongly urge you to reconsider the above revision plan. It falls far short of protecting habitat and wildlife for our future generations. The revised plan proposes only 125,675 acres of wilderness, most of which is low-quality, low-demand, high elevation [ldquo]rock and ice[rdquo] with limited enjoyment potential. Alternative D proposes 711,425 acres of wilderness which would far better achieve goals of wildlife connectivity and habitat protection for our future generation of hunters, anglers, and recreationists.

In particular, the reduction in protections for the Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Area will have long term negative impacts on wildlife, habitat, the surrounding small businesses that depend on visitors that seek out outstanding wildlife viewing and hunting, and the economic prosperity of all communities in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). This is possibly the best lower-elevation habitat in the GYE. Forest management terms that allow [ldquo]flexible management for forest health[rdquo], especially in WMAs leave open interpretations that could open these areas up to potential temporary roads and activity that scientific research indicates will have long term, permanent impacts.

The plan[rsquo]s assessment that mitigation such as logging and [ldquo]vegetation treatments[rdquo] are needed to mitigate fire are unfounded by current science. Mitigation efforts, i.e., temporary roads, and treatments have demonstrated that these activities contribute to more severe fires and long-term negative impacts.

Finally, the proposed plan will cause the greatest forest habitat fragmentation by increasing high-impact recreation and other disturbances in the few remaining roadless areas left in the CGNF.

I urge you to reconsider the plan revision and incorporate the elements of Plan D which will provide for a more sustainable recreational use that more people can enjoy.

Thank you,

Alex Russell

Livingston, MT