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Comments: I was disappointed to see that South Cottonwood Canyon was not included in any designated area in the Final Draft of the Forest Plan Revision. South Cottonwood Canyon has outstanding scenic, recreation and wildlife habitat values. It serves as a buffer zone between the heavily used Hyalite Canyon recreation area and the Storm Castle motorized recreation area.

However, we cannot forget the historical significance of South Cottonwood which appeared in a pivotal chapter of Robert Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*. People from all over the world who have read this book come to South Cottonwood to follow the same route as Pirsig as a pilgrimage.

Quote from the *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* pilgrim guide:

"For the serious ZMM enthusiast to become a "Pirsig Pilgrim", MUST visit Robert & Gennie DeWeese Home, on Cottonwood Canyon Road."

A description of the route Pirsig followed in the book as described in the guide for pilgrims:

"Cottonwood Canyon, Gallatin National Forest, MT What was the ZMM Narrator's trail in the mountains after he left the DeWeese Family? On page 173 he says, "Just up above the top of the ridge the snow can be seen now. So, where is the Narrator's trail? We must use topo maps and all the Narrator's clues, even tiny ones, to deduce his trail. Early in Part III, he says that he started at the DeWeese's and followed the stream up a narrow canyon. And he moves directly towards the (closest?) snow, and this snow is visible while in their deep narrow canyon. Most likely these are the mountains in the Southeast. Indeed, there is a 1.2 mile stretch of Cottonwood Canyon that does point, up canyon, directly at some very high snow peaks (over 10,000 feet) in the Gallatin National Forest, such as Mount Blackmore and Elephant Mountain. Given these crucial clues, a ridge fitting the narrators descriptions, is identifiable. Having thus identified a probable "ridge" on the North side of and parallel to Cottonwood Canyon, another connecting ridge that then could lead a climber to snow may be identified."

Famous South Cottonwood residents Bob & Gennie DeWeese and Norman Strung were members of the Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood, a grass roots organization that was able to raise money to purchase land which protected the integrity of the canyon in the 1990s.

Quote from Bozeman Daily Chronicle article May 30, 2009:

"Twenty years ago this month, a group of locals banded together and named themselves the Concerned Citizens of Cottonwood. What they were concerned about was a proposed logging project in the scenic South Cottonwood Canyon, a 35-square-mile chunk of roadless land 10 miles south of Bozeman. Then, Plum Creek Timber Co. owned 1,280 acres in the canyon and hoped to feed its mill in Belgrade with logs taken out of the forest of lodgepole pine and Douglas fir.

Led by Norman Strung, a field editor for *Field & Stream* magazine the citizen group sought to protect what it called "Gallatin County's vest-pocket wilderness," "the only remaining wild place left along the Gallatin Front" and the "last, best drainage."

By June of that year, they had enlisted the help of Sen. Max Baucus, who wrote letters to Forest Service personnel and Plum Creek, urging them to talk about a sale. Plum Creek proved to be a willing negotiator. Baucus plugged \$2 million into the federal budget toward buying land in the canyon, and a deal was struck."

The historical significance of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* was major factor in the success of Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood. I was the Treasurer of CCC and I was amazed at the amount of money the group was able to raise for the cause of protecting South Cottonwood Canyon. Contributions came from all over the world. Attached is an article about the legacy of Norman Strung published in *Field and Stream Magazine*, January 1993.

This land purchase triggered a paradigm shift from logging emphasis to recreation and led to the Gallatin Land Exchanges that consolidated public land in the Gallatin Range. The Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood and the protection of South Cottonwood Canyon is an important chapter in the history of the Gallatin Range.

South Cottonwood should be either included in the Hyalite recreation area or be given Backcountry status.

I have previously submitted comments on the Forest Plan Revision in April 2019 with a reference to providing protection to South Cottonwood Canyon.