

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/8/2020 9:10:20 PM

First name: Kathy

Last name: Powell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: 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

☐ Regional Forester's List of SCC

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

I have objections relating to Cowboy Heaven, east side of Crazy Mts, Big Pryor and Punch Bowl in Pryors, Lionhead and S Cottonwood and Mt Blackmore in Hyalite.

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

\*The reasons for this objection are:

Cowboy Heaven: Reconsider from a BCA to Recommended Wilderness. This would consolidate an important wildlife corridor away from an increasingly busy Gallatin Canyon & Valley and keep this area wild and untrampled. Mountain bikers could access the edges of Cowboy Heaven but not the core, which is also supported by mt bike groups in SW MT, Livingston and Big Sky.

Crazy Mts: These mountains are stunning and important to wildlife and the Crow Nation. I was camping there just a week ago on the east side at Half Moon Campground. Hiking, fishing, enjoying the quiet and incredible waterfalls & pools of Big Timber Creek. I am encouraged that over 10,000 acres are Recommended Wilderness in the southern Crazies along with over 28,000 acres of back country area. However, the east side of the Crazies is at risk as a BCA. It should stay primitive and open to only foot and stock traffic as it is today. Keep the gates there. It gets plenty of use from hikers and horses. Allowing bikes would increase noise, erosion, traffic and greatly change the character of the unique alpine ecosystems and definitely create conflict. If the area were to continue to be a BCA, that designation should be amended to be non-motorized and non-mechanized.

Pryor Mts: Encouraged to see Lost Water Canyon, Bear Canyon and more of Crooked Creek Recommended as Wilderness. Such amazing mountains with unique ecosystems with over 400 species of plants, some found nowhere else. However, Big Pryor and Punch Bowl should be added to Recommended Wilderness so that 4 distinct areas of the Pryors are protected.

Lionhead: This is a linkage for wildlife between YNP and the Centennial Mts into the Gravelly mts and beyond. Important for elk, moose, grizzlies, big horn sheep and wolverine. Mountain bikes were unfortunately allowed in even though it was Recommended Wilderness. Lionhead should be retained as Recommended Wilderness as was intended.

Hyalite: Reconsider the adding protection for S Cottonwood and Mt Blackmore. They are important wildlife habitat and backcountry recreation opportunities.

Recommending areas as wilderness is very important. Human recreation is a factor, but animals, plants, habitat have votes too in preserving wild places. Enforcing these recommendations is then the key to protecting wild and wilderness areas in the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

\*Proposed Solution: See above.

Statement demonstrating the link between objection and prior formal comments:

My prior formal comments of 6/3/19 are linked to the above comments:

In support of the Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement (GFPA) for the Madison-Gallatin Range except I recommended that the Porcupine Creek-Buffalo Horn Creek Trail, to the east of the Big Ski Snowmobile trail be restricted to horse and hiking only. This trail, without this restriction squeezes the width of the Porcupine Buffalo Horn WSA so there is more room for wildlife and plants.

Also, I recommended in prior formal comments as above that there should be more Recommended Wilderness in the Pryors, a "Botanical Hotspot" with "exceptional biological diversity".

Signature: Kathy Powell