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First name: Anne

Last name: Millbrooke

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:

Wilderness is reduced into seven relatively small Recommended Wilderness Areas totaling only 126,000 acres, by the designation of 13 Backcountry areas (an empty designation as far as conservation is concerned) and the designation of 10 Recreation Emphasis areas are a major problem. Recreation is important, but 208,959 acres of Backcountry recreation (apparently allowing all the mechanized toys in existence or may become in existence) and 224,608 acres of recreation (also with mechanized recreation) is absurdly too much playground and not enough conservation.

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

*The reasons for this objection are:

Wilderness is the gold standard of conservation. The "Big Guns Want 230,000 Acres of the Gallatins Near Yellowstone Protected As Wilderness," according to an article of that title that I submitted with my comments on wilderness on May 15, 2019.

You are recommending seven places adding up total Wilderness smaller than ranches in Montana. As I wrote you on May 15, 2019: "When I say small size, that's by the standard of Montana where the Wilks brothers have over 350,000 acres, the Galt family over 240,000 acres, Stan Kroenke more than 225,000 acres, Robert Earl Holding more than 210,000 acres, and Coffee family more than 210,000 acres. I think that a public wilderness the size of large privately owned ranch lands is not excessive!"

Given generously, very generously to recreation (too often a euphemism for mechanized recreation) gives too much weight to special and local financial interests. As I wrote on your on May 31, 2019) "Wilderness is a national resource, owned by all the people of the nation rather than just local users or those who benefit from the outdoor recreation business generated by local wilderness. Compromising the size down, down, down, spoils all future options for wilderness as land is developed for other uses. Good luck to all of us - and the best luck of all would be a decision supporting the most wilderness possible."

Furthermore, as I wrote you in another letter on May 31, 2019, "Backcountry designation is too weak to protect such valuable resources as Bear Canyon, Big Pryor Mountain, Punch Bowl RWAs, and an enlarged Lost Water Canyon RWA. These areas should all have wilderness status and wilderness protection. I think the four Pryors RWAs are reasonable, even moderate given the uniqueness of the ecosystems and landscapes. Wilderness designation would have little impact on the existing motorized and bike routes, and that little impact well compensated by the protection of such valuable wilderness resources!"

"Wilderness is a national, public resource. Many states do not have any wilderness, or any lands left that might qualify as wilderness. Montana should be contributing sufficient wilderness for the national, public good. We still have wilderness quality lands in the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and we should be protecting those lands, those watersheds, that wildlife, and the very wilderness areas themselves. NOW." I submitted that in my comments of June 1, 2019.

On June 4, 2019, I asked you to consider designating as much Wilderness as possible, at least 230,000 acres of wilderness in the Gallatin Range alone, and I asked "that you ban bikes, mountain bikes, motor bikes, bicycles, and other mechanized vehicles, in the wilderness. The forest has plenty of trails for bikers outside the wilderness

study areas that should be protected with wilderness status."

*Proposed Solution:

Recommend Wilderness designation for all existing Wilderness Study Areas and for the remaining roadless wildlands in the CGNF; about 700,000 acres total would be ideal.

Statement demonstrating the link between objection and prior formal comments:

I cited my submissions above.

Signature: Anne Millbrooke (digital signature)