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Comments: Buffalo Field Campaign is asking the Custer Gallatin National Forest to review the best available scientific information to place native wild buffalo on the list of potential Species of Conservation Concern. For example, the International Union for Conservation of Nature lists bison as near threatened. Scientists consider bison ecologically extinct in their original range and estimate the wildlife species occupies less than 1% of their original habitat (Freese 2007; Sanderson 2008). The Montana Heritage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks lists bison as a species of concern - a native Montana species considered to be 'at risk' due to declining population trends, threats to their habitat and or restricted distribution.

It is imperative that the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan revision include bison on the potential list of Species of Conservation Concern to be decided by the Regional Forester. Without the agency's evaluation of the best available science supporting bison being on the list, the Regional Forester will have no assessment to decide the matter. BISON should be on the list of Species of Conservation Concern. These animals are important to the environment. Fish and Wildlife haven't been supportive while protecting ranchers. Could this be political????????