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Comments: Dear Sir: please use the best available science to evaluate the buffa/bison's status in the Custer Gallatin Forest. We know the current Forest Plan is almost 30 years over-due in revision, particularly for the bison.

The bison are extraordinary iconic beings who are returning on their own to areas they have migrated within for thousands of years. Please protect them. They are a remarkable species, family-oriented, who love, are loved, grieve, mourn, can be joyful, inquisitive, smart, and above all , sentient. Without wildlife, our wild spaces are, in essence, dead.

I have spent several months in Montana, observing and living near the bison. I would encourage you, based on the best available science, to categorize the bison as a species of Conservation Concern. It is unnecessary, and simply wrong, to not protect the migratory bison. Trapping and slaughtering these animals is not justifiable. Thank you,

Melinda Hirsch