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First name: Kevin

Last name: Broderick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'd like to comment specifically on "Social and Economic Benefits and Conditions" in the draft Assessment, particularly the assessment of Carbon County. As a Carbon County resident who works and recreates in the county, I believe it would be worth noting in the report that the jobs related to "travel, recreation, tourism" are largely dependent on the availability of recreation opportunities within the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. The proximity to Yellowstone National Park and Shoshone National Forest also provides an impact, but neither of those areas would matter were it not for the infrastructure in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. Furthermore, many people visit Carbon County specifically to recreate in the Custer-Gallatin, and in doing so create a great deal of economic value within the local communities.

Anecdotally, that value is highly tied to the accessibility of recreation opportunities here-there are a great number of opportunities, particularly camping in summer months and skiing in spring and early summer, that are more readily accessed here than in most other places (i.e. you can get much closer via motorized transportation, making them more accessible to people with limited time and/or fitness levels). While that accessibility certainly creates management challenges, it also provides economic value to the local community as well as recreation opportunities to many people who may lack the ability or inclination to take part in activities which require a greater upfront investment in time and effort to get to a starting point.