

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2017 7:00:00 AM

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Title: Owner, Wildlife Biologist

Comments: To: Mary Erickson

Supervisor, Custer Gallatin National Forest

RE: Custer Galatin's Draft Assessment for Wild Buffalo

Concerning the Custer Gallatin's Draft Assessment and the Buffalo Field Campaign's evaluation of such, we are in strong agreement and support BFC's evaluation results that there is vital need to change the Forest Plan to identify wild buffalo as a Species of Conservation Concern and Focal Species.

We, further support the Regional Forester identifying wild buffalo as a Species of Conservation Concern on the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Please review the best available scientific information as dictated when considering the future management of a species, that qualifies wild buffalo for the list of Species of Conservation Concern to be decided by the regional forester. Not only do we have a strong concern, but in addition there is a strong concern among the public in regards to the viability and future of wild buffalo in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Habitat is extremely critical for all wild species and even more so in our National Forests to ensuring the sustainability of the wild buffalo as a migratory species.

In addition, we also support the Custer Galatin identifying wild buffalo as a Focal Species in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Again, please review the best available science, as required, that supports this decision.

Wild buffalo are a keystone species that are vital to diversity of grasslands and the numerous plant and animal species within the ecosystem, in which you are required to protect by the U.S. Congress.

The best available scientific information along with overwhelming public concern for wild buffalo support changing the Forest Plan to list wild buffalo as a Species of Conservation Concern and Focal Species on the Custer Gallatin National Forest. There is a great need for this in our National Forests, it is time.

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