

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

First name: Dean

Last name: Littlepage

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you

These are ccomments on the draft assessment for the Custer-Gallatin Forest Plan. Thanks you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

My main objective is to see the new plan recognize and protect the values of wildlands, wildland-dependent wildlife, primitive, no-motorized backcountry recreation, and wilderness. To that end, here are some specific comments:

-The Gallatin Range (HPBH WSA) and ALL adjacent, unroaded Forest land, the Lionhead roadless area, and the unroaded sections of the Crazies should be recommended as wilderness, and managed as such until such time as Congress acts.

-To flesh out the comment that these areas should be managed as interim wilderness, uses that are incompatible with wilderness should not be allowed. We already know that portions of several wonderful roadless areas have been degraded to the point they likely can no longer be reasonably considered for wilderness because the Forest Service allowed such uses in designated WSAs (the West Pioneers on the Beaverhead being the mother of all examples of this approach). Please do nothing of this nature to degrade the intact roadless areas on the Forest in the interim.

-I agree very strongly with the direction of identifying and providing suitable management for areas that are culturally significant to Native American peoples of our area. In particular, these cultural values should be front and center in considering the management of the Crazies, and are the basis for my desire to see them managed as wilderness. The Forest probably still has a record of the Crow tribe's comments on the Travel Plan of a dozen or so years ago, which emphasized limits on motorized use to protect this wonderful heritage area.

-The plan should fully recognize the needs of wildland-dependent species such as grizzlies and wolverine, and secure habitat for elk, all of which are synonymous with the Custer-Gallatin wildlands.

-Finally, I urge a flip in the philosophy about motorized use areas in the Forest backcountry. In the Travel Plan (which I was involved in, in great detail) the guiding question in decsions on designating areas open or closed was why a partiucular area should NOT be open, rather than, to me, the more pertinent question of why such an

area should be open. There was inadequate attention paid to the fact that motorized use is inherently incompatible with the vast majority of human use of the backcountry and to the predominant natural values of wildlands, such as stable soils, clean water, quiet uses, secure wildlife habitat, and others.

Thanks so much for this opportunity to comment. I have always appreciated the Forest Service's clear, open, and transparent public process on all the important issues on the Forest.

Sincerely,

Dean Littlepage

Dean Littlepage

Bozeman, MT 59715