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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Assessment of Existing Conditions/Need to Change Feedback

Dear Supervisor Erickson and the CGNF Forest Plan Revision Team

Our family writes in support of Buffalo Field Campaign's evaluation of the Custer Gallatin's Draft Assessment and agree there is a need to change the Forest Plan to identify wild buffalo as a Species of Conservation Concern and Focal Species.

The Custer-Gallatin National Forest is revising its forest plan to guide how the agency makes decisions affecting the forest. The old plan has been in effect for 30 years and makes no mention of buffalo. Under the outdated plan, the Gallatin National Forest permitted the Montana Dept. of Livestock to setup traps on the forest to capture hundreds of buffalo that were shipped to slaughter. It's time for decision makers to serve the needs of this iconic native species that has naturally returned to land that is their birthright. Our extended family wants to be involved in the forest plan revision! This is our opportunity to advocate for managing habitat on America's National Forests for migratory buffalo!

The Forest is currently seeking public feedback on the draft Assessment of Conditions / Need to Change of the agency's Forest Plan, which has not been updated since 1987. The assessment is intended to evaluate local knowledge and the best available information about the forest and inform the development of the next Forest Plan.

We strongly 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 that qualifies wild buffalo for the list of Species of Conservation Concern to be decided by the Regional Forester. There is substantial concern among the public about the viability and future of wild buffalo in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Habitat on our National Forests is critical to ensuring the persistence of this beloved migratory species.

We also support the Custer Gallatin identifying wild buffalo as a Focal Species on the Custer Gallatin National Forest!

Please review the best available scientific information that supports identifying wild buffalo as a Focal Species in the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan. Wild buffalo are a keystone species, and ecological engineers that shape grassland diversity and provide habitat for many plant and animal species that the U.S. Congress requires you protect!

The best available scientific information and 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. It's time for the Custer Gallatin to do more for wild buffalo on our National Forests!

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