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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

I write 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 American Bison has suffered serious population loss during the late 19th Century that took the national animal to the brink of extinction. Today, some one hundred years later, the situation for the species is not greatly improved especially in light of the persecution the species receives at the hand of the Federal Government in Wyoming and Montana. The unwarranted killing of Bison in Yellowstone National Park by the National Park Service and the parallel actions by the US Forest Service are clear threats to the survival of the last wild living Bison in the lower forty eight states.

In an effort to end this lethal persecution, I 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. They are a species that belong in our National Forests.

I 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. Indeed, this is the right place to make sure we do the right thing for the recovery and return of the American Bison into the land where they belong. I know you have important decisions to make regarding Gallatin National Forest, decisions that will have long term benefits and consequences for both the forest and its denizens as well as for the American people. Please add our important native species to your list, namely our American Bison and all other species that made up the unique fauna of the American West in the 19th Century.

Regards

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