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Comments: Decision makers MUST serve needs of the iconic native buffalo who have naturally returned to land that is their birthright!

Our family wants to participate in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest planning process! It is extremely important that we all chime in at every opportunity for wild buffalo on our National Forest! The Custer-Gallatin National Forest is revising its forest plan to guide how the agency makes decisions affecting the forest! This National Forest surrounds much of Yellowstone National Park, and is critical habitat for and used by wild, migratory buffalo! The old forest 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 Under the outdated plan, the Gallatin National Forest permitted the Montana Department of Livestock to set up traps on the forest to capture hundreds of buffalo that were shipped to slaughter! It is time for decision makers to serve the needs of this iconic native species that has naturally returned to land that is their birthright! Our family needs to get involved in the forest plan revision! It is our opportunity to advocate for managing habitat on America's National Forests for migratory buffalo!

Although we cannot make it in person, there are still opportunities for us to be involved from wherever we live!

Buffalo Field Campaign's evaluation of the Custer Gallatin's Draft Assessment found there is a need to change the Forest Plan to identify wild buffalo as a Species of Conservation Concern and Focal Species!

1. The best available scientific information supports placing wild buffalo on the list of Species of Conservation Concern to be decided by the Regional Forester!

2.

Buffalo qualify as a species of conservation concern and the Custer Gallatin should recognize this fact in the agency's Forest Plan!

3.

4. The best available scientific information supports evaluating and identifying wild buffalo as a Focal Species in the Forest Plan!

Buffalo are an ideal focal species for monitoring grassland and watershed health, fire, and diversity of native plant and animal species. The Custer Gallatin should recognize buffalo as a focal species in the Forest Plan!

PLEASE UPDATE THE STATUS OF THE BELEAGUED BUFFALO!

DIANE M. KASTEL AND FAMILY  
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