

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2018 9:26:44 PM

First name: Robert

Last name: Laroux

Organization:

Title:

Comments: dissatisfaction with revision of Forest Plan for Custer Gallatin

All,

This is a letter to express my dissatisfaction with revising the Forest Plan for Custer Gallatin National Forest (GCNF). Wild lands protection is critical to the quality of life of the region's communities, and essential to the outdoor economy that draws visitors, as well as contributing to the well being of residents providing clean water, important fish habitat, critical wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty. It's important to remember that the GCNF is not the nation's woodbox, nor should it be the nation's outdoor gymnasium (Don't cut the trees and people have other locations to recreate). What the GCNF does best is provide for high-quality wild lands.

According to Conservation Biology principles, larger protected areas are better than smaller patches of habitat. That is one reason larger unprotected wildlands, especially if they are contiguous existing protected areas. So adding adjacent roadless lands to existing wilderness is important for enhancing the overall conservation value.

Though I live nowhere close to the area, I am a participatory party in this nation's political will, and such feel ALL points of view need to be heard regarding this subject (agreed?). Please feel free to contact me further regarding this subject. Thank you for your time.

Mark LaRoux

2002 Great Hills Drive

Huntsville, AL 35811