

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/5/2019 1:58:30 PM

First name: Rebecca

Last name: Ward

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Custer Gallatin National Forest

Years ago, I rode a trusted buckskin gelding into the upper end of the Buffalo Horn drainage. I had been a seasonal employee on the forest years ago, doing trail maintenance and was interested in revisiting trails on which I had worked or been on during that employment. My horse knew well before I that we had company. When we came out of the timber a grizzly perhaps a 500 feet away, stood up on his hind legs looking toward us. Although there were three of us on horses, we immediately felt his larger presence. We quietly stared at each other and then he dropped down and continued his "grazing". We continued on the trail with a feeling that would forever remain locked in our minds as amazing, perhaps even life-altering.

Simply knowing that we have done everything in our power to help this very special inhabitant survive amidst humanity says we care about the world, the ecosystem, about something other than ourselves. This is the reason I ask, I plead with you, to choose Custer-Gallatin Alternative D. Grizzly bears need space and that space can be retained and protected by us humans giving them- guaranteeing them- the original inhabitants of these drainages and hills, the greatest amount of space, of habitat, that is left in this ecosystem. Alternative D does this.

Wilderness quality lands as you know, are quickly diminishing or are being detrimentally impacted. By choosing Alternative D, you are proving that you understand the significance of bear, elk and moose habitat, and of the need to keep our human presence limited. You will be exemplifying the idea of intact ecosystems and the need for its voiceless inhabitants to survive in a world less impacted by humanity.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and for choosing Custer Gallatin Alternative D.