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Comments: The greater Yellowstone ecosystem is home to some of the best, most diverse and intact wildlands in the Lower 48: it's still is home to all the major species of mammals that were present on this continent prior to the arrival of europeans. All of this possible because it contains habitat that remains largely unfragmented and still mostly intact in the 21st century.

Outside of Yellowstone National Park, wilderness is the greatest means of protecting the habitat and wildlands so crucial to preserving the uniqueness and diversity of wildlife in the Yellowstone region, as well as providing the necessary refuge we, and all species will need as the effects of climate change become more pronounced.

I support Alternative D, which recommends a suitable percentage of forest as wilderness, not only in the Gallatin Range, but in other vital regions of the Custer Gallatin like the Crazy Mountains. If we want to ensure that the greater Yellowstone continue to maintain its vital importance for wildlife, intact habitat and ecological diversity for generations to come, as well as our reverence for wild places, I ask that you please enact a management plan that can provide for protections that will make that a reality.