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Backcountry designation. Backcountry is no substitute for designated wilderness. We know what we get with wilderness-it is time tested. Backcountry regulations are subject to interpretation and are less effective at protecting wildlands values. Therefore I believe all areas that are suitable for wilderness designation such as the Buffalohorn Porcupine area of the Gallatin Range, the Crazy Mountains, the Pryor Mountains and Tongue River Breaks should all be designated as wilderness.

In addition to the rivers the CGNF has proposed for Wild and Scenic River designation, these additional rivers should be designated.

Heavy riparian areas are critical to all kinds of wildlife. For instance, grizzly bears use riparian areas in the spring for foraging and cover. They may not use these corridors later in the year, but if they don't have them their existence is compromised. So some of these values are seasonal.

Taylor's Fork. High wildlife values as a migration corridor for elk and other wildlife moving up and down and across the Madison Range.

Buffalohorn Creek. Probably the most important stream drainage in the forest. Critical for grizzly bears, migrating elk, wintering elk, wolverine, westslope cutthroat trout, moose, etc.

Lower and Upper Deer Creek: These streams are in a large roadless area that should be recommended for wilderness. They are also a major restoration area for Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Hellroaring Creek (AB Wilderness) is important spring bear habitat, and also elk habitat.

The FS should have specific species of concern that are for this forest. Not species from across Region One.

An analysis of the impacts of livestock on small seeps and wetlands and the impact on water storage capacity should be part of any climate change review. Functioning seeps and wetlands can store and release fifty percent more water during late season flows when it is most critical to aquatic ecosystems than similar cow pounded areas.

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