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Comments: Greetings to the powers that be regarding the future of the Custer Gallatin National Forest,

Balance is a good concept for which to strive, and yet, our world is way out of balance.

What happens in the Custer Gallatin National Forest land will be felt worldwide. Sooner or later, dramatic or not, the repercussions will be felt.

In a world dominated by humans, I will always argue in favor of the wild places that have been touched little by humans. We have no right to displace the creatures and plants that have evolved on this planet alongside us and without us. The greed of humans is destructive to the biodiversity on this planet. We need to learn to live and let live--live alongside and not live at the expense of the lives of other plants and animals.

I embrace Wallace Stegner's thought on wild places: "We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope. "

For our sanity and the lives of other living organisms, we MUST leave unscathed/untouched more land than is now protected from our greed. To that end, I encourage the decision makers of the Custer Gallatin National Forest to swing the pendulum in favor of managing the National Forest as wilderness. Much is not designated as wilderness, but should be managed as wilderness. There are names such as Dome Mountain, Emigrant Peak, East Rosebud to the Stillwater, Lost Water, Big Pryor, Bear Canyon, Lionhead. I have seen none of them, but I know they should be preserved as wilderness for the sake of wilderness--for the sake of those creatures that call these places home and for sanity of solitude.

The future of these human named places whose inhabitants call these places home because they cannot live any other place, must not be measured in board feet, in grazing allotments and AUMs, in mineral weights or in ORV and bicycle designated routes. These uses should be eliminated to swing the balance towards the favor of wilderness and away from human greed. We can learn to live without some things. We can learn to live on less so that we can leave more places for the other animals with which we share this earth and leave more space for the plants to thrive.

So, I say just leave all of the Custer Gallatin National Forest alone--all wild. Incredible concept eh? Someone has to start advocating for leaving things alone before there is nothing left to leave alone and we are stranded on a planet in disrepair.

Use some heart in the decision making process--not numbers and figures and values and costs and profit and economics. Let go of all of that and just let the wild be.

Whole-heartedly and always,

An advocate for wilderness