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Title:

Comments: Dear Ms. Erickson and Forest Plan Revision Team,

I am writing to encourage you to adopt Alternative D. I have lived in Bozeman for nearly 30 years, having moved here to take a research management position at Montana State University. My wife and I decided to settle and raise our young family in SW Montana primarily because of this region's outstanding scenery, unparalleled recreational opportunities, and abundant wildlife. We have spent abundant time in the nearby national forest and wilderness areas-hiking, fishing, and backpacking. I write these comments with good, first-hand knowledge of the Custer-Gallatin National Forest.

The primary reason that I support Alternative D is that so much of this national forest deserves wilderness protection. Out of all the proposed alternatives, Alternative D is the best in terms of protecting the Custer-Gallatin National Forest's water resources (both quality and quantity), cultural and archeological resources, and rare or threatened fish, wildlife, and plant species. Alternative D also provides the best wildlife migratory routes, to ensure connectivity and healthy populations.

It is difficult to overemphasize the degree to which the Custer-Gallatin National Forest is special, unique, and relatively intact. It truly has national and even international significance because of its incredible scenery, outstanding natural and cultural resources, and relatively unspoiled nature. There are so many other better places in Montana and other states to harvest timber. There are also so many other places here in this region for motorized recreation, mountain biking, and other non-wilderness-compatible activities.

With this forest plan, we have a unique opportunity to protect and preserve the best parts of the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. Alternative D best responds to this opportunity. I highly support Alternative D.