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Comments: Once the Gallatin Range is developed, from I-90 to the park, a large area of critical habitat that supports the wildlife in Yellowstone and is part of an important migration corridor will be lost. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) is one of the few remaining large ecosystems in the northern temperate zone of the Earth. As a graduate student studying Ecology in the early 1970s, I was already learning about climate change. Now, with the predictions already being made back then now coming to pass, decisions about large forested areas that sequester large amounts of CO₂ must take into account every potential threat to these life-sustaining resources. The watershed role played by these forest ecosystems will only take on more significance as climate disruptions play out.

With climate change occurring now and representing the greatest threat, in my opinion, to life as we know it, doing anything but giving the Custer Gallatin Forest the Wilderness status that it deserves would be a dereliction of duty.

I ask for Alternative D with a recommended Gallatin Wilderness of 230,000 acres.