

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/6/2019 1:52:40 PM

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Title:

Comments: Adopt Alternative D and list American bison as a species of conservation concern

Custer-Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision

Custer-Gallatin National Forest

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RE: Adopt Alternative D and list American bison as a species of conservation concern

Dear Forest Plan Revision Team

I am sending these comments because I am an advocate for preserving the last wild herd of buffalo in our country and in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. I am very concerned about all the stress being imposed on our public lands, wildlife and native habitats. It is very alarming to me to see my tax dollars spent on capturing and killing buffalo. Even despite the money, these animals deserve a safe habitat to live and roam. Our National Parks and Forests should commit to providing a safe habitat for these and other native animals. Because of this I support Alternative D. I support listing American bison as a species of conservation in Region 1. I support protecting the bighorn sheep and the grizzly bears. In my mind, our National Forests, Parks and public lands should not cater to businesses like ranchers and farmers. These businesses should respect the fact that these public lands belong to all the people. They are not theirs to control. So cattle grazing and sheep grazing should not be permitted.

I support Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson adopting Alternative D, the environmentally preferred alternative in the Custer Gallatin National Forest plan.

I also support Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten listing American bison as a species of conservation concern in Region 1.

Please strengthen Alternative D by adopting the following standards and desired conditions:

- * The best available scientific information supports strengthening and adopting alternative D with enforceable standards for American bison, bighorn sheep, and threatened grizzly bears.

- * Conserving American bison viability and diversity should be a forest-wide standard.

- * Freedom for American bison to roam National Forest habitat should be a forest-wide standard.

- * Restoring habitat connectivity for American bison should be a forest-wide standard.

- * To restore connectivity, and conserve the viability and diversity of American bison's genetically distinct subpopulations, the Custer Gallatin needs to adopt a standard to close and not permit cattle grazing allotments in American bison range.

- * To restore connectivity, and conserve the viability and diversity of native bighorn sheep populations, the Custer

Gallatin needs to adopt a standard to not permit domestic sheep grazing in bighorn sheep range.

- * The best available scientific information supports including enforceable forest-wide standards to protect key linkage areas, habitat connectivity, and food security for threatened grizzly bears.

- * The Custer Gallatin must adopt a forest-wide standard for all grazing permits requiring "let-down" fencing and remove barriers that impede migration of native species.

- * Adopt a desired condition for the Custer Gallatin to be a leader in the development of wildlife safe passages and measures on highways constructed in migration corridors on the National Forest.

- * Restore more wetlands, creek banks, pond edges, and riparian habitat through strong standards and more yearly projects to benefit American bison and native species diversity.

- * The Custer Gallatin has a duty to fulfill its' responsibilities and trust obligations safeguarding treaty rights, sacred species, sacred sites, and traditional cultural places of significance to aboriginal people.

Relying on the best available scientific information, please select Alternative D and adopt strong standards for American bison, bighorn sheep, threatened grizzly bears, wilderness, linkage corridors, habitat connectivity, and water.

Sincerely,
Linda Kelly
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