

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/6/2019 11:54:56 PM

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Comments: Regarding the Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision:

"To sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

The goal stated above, which provides direction for National Forest management, can best be met by simply leaving the landscape alone. I realize this may sound extreme, but there is no doubt that ecosystem function would be best promoted by "wilderness" designation.

There are many values of this outstanding National Forest: spiritual, economic, clean water and air, recreation, wildlife presence and wildlife habitat. Needless to say, there are more. Perhaps one of the most rare in today's world is simple peace and quiet. The Custer Gallatin, and the associated Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is unique on a global scale simply due to the integrity of the natural landscape.

All the values above are promoted by maintaining the landscape. Future generations will be best served by working to keep it as it is.

Of the proposed alternatives, Alternative D is most aligned with the statement at the top of this page.

Considering climate change, and particularly the rate of climate change, it is conservative to minimize impacts to wildlife, soils, plant communities, and riparian areas. It is also appropriate to do everything possible to protect the watersheds of these lands.

This is not a time for "business as usual" in relation to land management. Climate change, increased recreation and other human pressures, mechanized travel are threats. The demands for more clean water for all uses must also be considered.

I simply do not want to emphasize numbers of dollars, numbers of people, or competing interests in forms of recreation. The facts are straight forward: It is time to maintain the unique character of this National Forest for its' best and most sustainable use. Please keep in mind that it is also less costly, particularly in this time of budget cuts and fire expenses for our forests.

I will be specific regarding the Porcupine Buffalo Horn area. This is excellent wildlife habitat. It should be managed as such.

For these reasons, I do prefer and encourage Alternative D.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and thank you for your efforts to properly manage our shared natural resource.