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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am contacting you today as not only an animal activist but as animal lover. In this particular case i am helping to make my voice heard on behalf of the innocent, defenceless and endangered Yellowstone Grizzly Bears. I hope you will take my thoughts and opinions into deep consideration and ensure these beautiful and intelligent animals welfare, safety and habitat (to them known as their home) is kept a number one priority throughout your revised forest planning.

It is to my understanding that over 3 million acres of forest are taken into planning consideration, it is a national forest which borders the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park. However it is essential that this specific area of woodlands remains protected due to that fact that it will provide a safe and secure habitat to link Yellowstone National Park grizzlies with Glacier National Park grizzlies. This is beneficial in a different perspective too as it will create 230,000 acres of new wilderness.

Are you familiar with the orphaned grizzlies? I have been following their story and for them this has been their home range for some time now. The area known as 'The Tom Miner Basin' they once called home is encircled by the Gallatin National Forest. It is known that numerous grizzlies frequently visit the Tom Miner Basin for the purpose of digging for caraway root, they pass through this forest. For this particular reason i am urging that the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area become designated wilderness. The wilderness study area should be a place of tranquility and peacefulness, as nature and wildlife intended. To allow off-road vehicle (ORV) use or mountain biking to happen within this area, would only create a negative impact by disturbing/frightening the wildlife up to a mile away on each side of the trail. Please do not allow such acts to be permitted within the wilderness study area and help to protect the safety of all wildlife.

Another crucial linkage range for the Glacier Park and Yellowstone grizzly bears is The Bridger and Crazy Mountains. As you may already be aware The Crazies are culturally and historically deeply meaningful and symbolic to the Crow Native American Indian Tribe. I beg of the Forest Service to support the wishes of the Native Americans and that all recommended wilderness in these two ranges be designated as such.

In relation to these two ranges i would also like to suggest that the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone be expanded to include all of the Absaroka Beartooth, Bangtail, Bridger, Crazy Mountains, Gallatin, and Henry's Lake. I mention all of these areas as i feel the Recovery Zone must span a large area, this being the whole national forest.

An important issue i also wanted to bring to your attention is the I-90 and state highways, I personally see these as large dominant barriers connecting these isolated ranges. I desperately urge and beg for the Forest Service to support and encourage wildlife overpasses and underpasses. This would protect the grizzlies and all wildlife from any type of peril, whilst allowing safe passage. I strongly believe in this plan, the wellbeing and safety of the animals is our goal purpose and this would only help guarantee this for them. Please help show your support and make this safe passage possible for these endangered grizzlies and wildlife.

In conclusion i urge you to please show your compassion and kind spirit for these truly wonderful grizzlies and other wildlife species. Please help to benefit their life, not endanger or harm it in anyway. Please, only we as humans can help make a positive impact upon an animals life and help save and protect them. The decision you are part of can help save the Yellowstone Grizzlies and i feel very strongly that we must work together to ensure that they remain safe.

I beg of you Forest Service to please choose Alternative-D. It will provide the most protection of critical core

habitat, roadless areas and also create 230,000 acres of new wilderness! We must protect as much wilderness and roadless areas as we can in order for their to be connectivity between isolated ranges.

Please, i pray you make the right decision on behalf of the grizzly bears. Please do not let them down, you are their only hope.

All species of Animal mean so much to me and i try to do everything and anything i can to help them. So when i first heard of the Yellowstone Grizzlies and the danger they were in i just knew i had to do everything in my power to help them. I have followed their story for quite a long time now and their story has truly made an impact on my life. I have come across many upsetting stories, however there have been some victories along the way such as the first Yellowstone-area grizzly hunt in 40 years to be blocked by a federal judge. Also in a ruling known as 'historic' for wild conservation in America, a US judge ordered that the world famous grizzly bears in and around Yellowstone national park be returned to the endangered species list. I have signed numerous petitions and wrote many emails in regard to saving the Yellowstone grizzly bears and that is why i am contacting you today, as i wish to continue to do the same again until the Yellowstone Grizzly Bears are safe at last and can live in peace.

Please Forest Service choose Alternative-D.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and consider my words.

On behalf of the Yellowstone Grizzly Bears.

Yours Sincerely
Sophia