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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Protect the Crazy Mountains to preserve their outstanding wilderness values and manage the area in close consultation with the Crow Nation. Manage the Crazies to protect their wilderness values and cultural significance. I would like to see no new expansion of motorized or mechanized trails; there are TOO MANY of these already! We also urge the Forest Service to manage the area in close consultation with the Crow Nation in order to protect and honor Crow reserved treaty rights and traditional cultural practices.

Protect the following roadless areas in the Pryor Mountains as recommended Wilderness: Lost Water, Big Pryor, Punch Bowl, and Bear Canyon. I ask that Forest Service protect the wild character and cultural significance of Bear Canyon, Big Pryor, and the Punch Bowl areas in the Pryor Mountains by managing them as recommended Wilderness, as reflected in Alternative D. We would also like to see the existing Lost Water Canyon Recommended Wilderness area expanded to 13,000 acres, also reflected in Alternative D. These four areas are not suitable for motorized recreation and mechanized recreation, both of which degrade the wilderness quality of the areas and threaten irreplaceable cultural values.

Implement the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement. I support the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement, which is reflected in Alternative C. The agreement asks the Forest Service to recommend Wilderness for 102,000 contiguous acres between Yellowstone National Park and Hyalite Peak, ensuring north-south connectivity. The proposed area encompasses the entire Big Creek drainage, Rock Creek, and Tom Miner basins - all of which include a diversity of lower elevation habitat popular with grizzly bears. The GFP agreement also urges the Forest Service to recommend Cowboy Heaven and Quake Lake in the Madison Range as additions to the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area. In total, I ask the Forest Service to recommend Wilderness for over 124,000 acres in the Gallatin and Madison Ranges.

Maintain the boundaries of the current recommended Wilderness in the Lionhead. I prefer that the Forest Service maintain the existing 22,800 acres of recommended Wilderness in the Lionhead, reflected in the no-action Alternative A. I would also like to see this area managed to allow foot and stock travel only, so that it may one day be eligible for Congressional Wilderness designation.

Retain areas currently recommended for Wilderness in the Absaroka Beartooth area, and additionally recommend Dome Mountain, Emigrant Peak, Chico Peak, Woodbine, East Rosebud to Stillwater, and Red Lodge Creek. I recommend that the Forest Service protect all existing recommended Wilderness areas adjacent to the AB and additionally recommend the following areas as reflected in Alternative D: West Woodbine, East Rosebud to Stillwater, Red Lodge Creek, Chico Peak, Emigrant Peak, and Dome Mountain. I also support managing Bad Canyon as a Backcountry area with no mechanized and motorized recreation as proposed in Alternative B. Keep the mechanized, motorized monstrosities out of the back country!

Manage the Tongue River Breaks, King Mountain, and Cook Mountain in the Ashland district as recommended Wilderness. We need to maintain the Tongue River Breaks, King Mountain, and Cook Mountain as wilderness, thereby protecting the incredible natural landscapes and indigenous cultural values.

The Sioux Ranger District has impressive sandstone outcroppings and stands of pines rising dramatically out of the surrounding prairies. The area is rich in archeological and paleontological resources and offers many opportunities for solitude. These places need to be managed as a "backcountry area" prohibiting motorized and

mechanized recreation, as reflected in Alternative D.

Finally, you need to manage recommended Wilderness just like designated Wilderness, allowing only foot and horse travel in recommended Wilderness and not allowing any mechanized or motorized use. We especially need to protect wilderness and other wild areas for individual and small group non-consumptive pursuits, such as hiking, fishing, hunting, contemplating nature, and connecting with the transcendent (God, if you will). I especially like getting far into the back country and hunting elk (e.g., in the Crazies), and searching for antelope in the Ashland area.