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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, and thank you for providing the opportunity for public feedback in the planning process for the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Here is my emphatic plea to protect the Crazy Mountains. I frequently viewed the Crazy Mountains from afar while traveling, hunting, or recreating and they always held an air of mystery for me as they loomed so large and iconic on the horizon. In August of 2016, I was finally able to experience them for myself. With a group, I hiked from Half Moon campground to Ibex Cabin. During the planning phase, I was a bit daunted by some of the elevation gains and almost didn't go. I was 46 at the time and not in the greatest shape. Meeting a personal challenge by traversing those high mountain passes in an area of untrammeled, mind-boggling, and rugged beauty was something I will never forget. Ever. It was a spiritual awakening that can't be described, only experienced. I want to protect that experience for as many others as I can. The wilderness values in this island range are absolutely extraordinary and must be preserved. I felt as if I was hiking through a magical land as described by many of the books I had read as a child. This area is plagued by checker-boarded ownership and public access must be preserved and even expanded if possible. I believe that managing the area in close consultation with the Crow Nation, who holds it sacred for the same values I expressed, is absolutely necessary.

We have also taken annual antelope hunting trips over near Ashland as a family and those experiences with my son were priceless. We hunt by walking into areas and hope that more roadless area will be preserved. Please manage the Tongue River Breaks, King Mountain, and Cook Mountain in the Ashland district as recommended Wilderness.

Our heritage of beautiful, accessible, and protected public lands is one that has truly made my life and those of my children richer. This heritage must be protected at all cost for our future. Recommended wilderness must be managed just like designated Wilderness in order to do so. Please only allow foot and horse travel in these areas and do not allow motorized or mechanized use.

The Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement has already proposed the best course of action for these areas. Please implement that agreement to permanently protect these areas.

Thank you for listening and for being proper stewards of these lands.

"In all our deliberations we must be mindful of the impact of our decisions on the seven generations to follow ours." - from the Great Law of the Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy