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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Comment on Custer Gallatin Forest Plan DEIS

The Forest Service failed to provide a "No Action" Alternative.

The Forest Service failed to provide a "Preferred" Alternative.

Page 89 of the DEIS. Objectives (FW-OBJ-RT) 03. All alternatives (B,C,D,E) propose to close additional miles of roads which further limits access. No alternative was provided for comment which increased access opportunities.

Page 94 of DEIS. Objectives (FW-OBJ-REC) 01. All alternatives (B,C,D,E) propose to "Remove or relocate existing recreation facilities including dispersed sites. The "specialist report" recommended expanding camping and recreation facilities yet No alternative was provided to the public which would have increased these recreation opportunities.

I request the Forest Service provide a "No Action" and a "Preferred" alternative. I request the Forest Service provide alternatives that increase road and trail access. I request the Forest Service provide alternatives that increase recreation and camping facilities.

As stated on page 84 2.4.8, code of Federal Regulations 228 "Citizens are guaranteed the right to prospect and explore lands reserved from the public domain and open to mineral development. The disposal of these mineral resources is discretionary. "Please explain this discrepancy in statements.

The DEIS under 2.4.8 does not discuss in FW-GO-EMIN, FW-STD-EMIN, FW-DC- EMIN, or FW-GDL- EMIN the protection or guaranteed right to access these minerals. I request the Forest Service include language reflecting the rights protected under the 36 CFR 228 and the Mining Law of 1872 in the Standards and Guidelines section of the DEIS and also in the language

Page 79 Table 15, Lands suitable for timber production of approximately 500 to 600 thousand acres while annual treatment acres on page 81, alternatives B,C,D, and E reflect a mere 5 to 8 thousand acres treated annually.

This very limited amount of treatment (<1% of suitable) will never effectively treat what is needed.

Page 79 and 80 of the DEIS states: Both the projected wood sale quantity and the projected timber sale quantity are limited by the projected fiscal capability....." The DEIS failed to mention of an increased capacity based on the statutory appropriation of the Montana Legislature to the Good Neighbor Authority which will increase funding. for planning and implementation of timber sale quantities based on the State's contribution to this effort.

Page 50, Objectives (FW-OBJ-FIRE) 02 suggests a minimum of 37,000 acres burned annually. While on page 81, Objectives (FWOBJ-TIM) 03 alternatives B, C,D, and E, suggest vegetation management treatments on 5 to 8 thousand acres annually. Vegetation treatment is superior to fire as smoke from both wildfire and prescribed burns produce toxic chemicals which according to the Montanan DEQ website cause premature mortality".

According to reports the people in Seeley Lake are still experiencing reduced lung function nearly a year after the fires in 2018.

I request the Forest Service increase the annual vegetation treatment in an effort to reduce fire severity, reduce toxic chemical emissions, and increase timber resources to support local mills and communities.