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Comments: The National Forest's (NF) preferred Alternative F is weak and objectionable on several grounds in reference to the Bison herds. For example, the NF continues to define natural migrations based on "management zones" that exclude bison from National Forest habitat. There is a better protective provision(s) for wildlife and habitat in Alternative D, and enforceable standards instead of weak desired conditions.

The best choice for the American Bison would entail their listing under the Species of Conservation Concern. The Regional Forester must understand that Bison are not to be treated as livestock. They are in fact our National Mammal and treasure. They are an important part of our Country's history, especially to the Nebraska plains. Let us not keep making the same mistake that our forefathers made and continue to slaughter an animal that requires protecting.

As such, we implore the FS to adopt strong enforceable standards to benefit the migratory giants and their connectivity to their habitat on our National Forests. The risk of brucellosis transmission to protect the economic interest and viability of the livestock industry in the state of Montana is a misnomer. In the last few years brucellosis in domestic herds of cattle is in the single digits. That's right 1 to 9 which includes the entire U.S., let alone Yellowstone by itself. That being said, it sounds like it would be better to randomly test the bison herds for brucellosis. Rather than continue the largest on going slaughter of bison.

That being said it is hoped that the Regional Forester listing would be changed to make the American bison a Species of Conservation Concern, and have the Forest Supervisor adopt strong enforceable standards to benefit the migratory giants and connectivity to their habitat on our National Forests.

Thank you!