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First name: Caleb

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Custer Gallatin National Forest,

Thank you for your efforts in drafting a new management plan for this national forest. Overall, I am largely in favor of the new plan. However, I would like to issue an objection to two restrictions placed on rec events in the new plan. Specifically the ban on overnight rec events in the key linkage area and the grizzly bear RZ or PCA. I believe that a blanket ban overwhelmingly limits the recreation event potential in the area. I would like to suggest that the ban be removed and each event be considered on a case-by-case basis. I fully believe that in many instances overnight rec events would be unwise in the grizzly RZ/PCA, but there are situations and areas where overnight events could be done safely and without unreasonable impacts on grizzly's and other wildlife. I believe it would be better suited to have a biologist review any overnight rec events rather than issuing a complete ban on them in the key linkage area and the grizzly PCA. Adding a stipulation on any issued permits that would require cancellation or modification of events should the need arise to avoid grizzly conflict would also assist the district in reducing conflicts with bears. The Helena-Lewis and Clark NF has such a stipulation in their management plan.

With respect,

Caleb Efta