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First name: Dan

Last name: Janet Blair

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Protect habitat and list American bison as a species of conservation concern.

Dear Supervisor Erickson,

On June 3, 2019, we filed comments during the drafting of the revised management plan for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, letter ID 50185-2788-5195.

In those comments, we recommended adoption of forest-wide standards for American bison, to include conservation of American bison viability and diversity; freedom for American bison to roam National Forest habitat; and restoration of habitat connectivity for American bison.

Our comments also asked Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten to list the American bison as a "species of conservation concern" in Region 1.

Now we strongly object to your decision, as Forest Supervisor, not to include habitat standards for American bison in the Custer Gallatin management plan.

Further, we strongly object to Region One Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten's decision not to designate American bison as a species of conservation concern on our National Forests in the Northern region. We have filed our objections with her.

The Custer Gallatin Land Management Plan must:

- * Include habitat standards for American bison to freely roam our National Forests in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

- * Designate American bison a species of conservation concern to ensure a viable future for these migratory giants on our National Forests.

This is not a matter we take lightly -- nor should anyone charged with managing the national forests owned by all of us. The distinct and unique American bison herds remaining in the wild deserve standards and legal designations securing their presence on our National Forests for future generations. The Custer Gallatin leaders have a duty to fulfill their responsibilities and trust obligations safeguarding this iconic species, sacred to the indigenous people of the region and vital to the ecosystem we all share. The Custer Gallatin management plan as it stands now is woefully deficient and fails to recognize the needs on the ground for this declining "species of conservation concern."

We asked in June of 2019, and we reiterate, that you give our concerns your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan and Janet Blair