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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Plan Revision Committee,

Thank you for the time and effort you are putting into this important process. I'd like to file an objection based on my previous comments.

First of all, I want to applaud you for designating some Recommended Wilderness. However, as humans continue to encroach on wildlife habitat through extraction and recreation, we need more. "Backcountry" and "Recreation Emphasis" are not enough. The time is now, before it's too late. You know as well as I do that once humans make their marks, it's nearly impossible to erase them.

The remaining wildlands of the Gallatin Range, especially the entire 155,000 acre Hyalite Porcupine Buff Horn WSA, should be protected as Recommended Wilderness and not as "backcountry." Likewise, Recommended Wilderness should not be downgraded to "backcountry" status in the Pryors. Recommended Wilderness should be expanded in the Absaroka Beartooths and the Crazies (where access can be made possible through private land matrices). The Lionhead RWA of 22,000 acres should be restored as such, not dropped for the sake of mountain biking.

As for wildlife, I applaud your placing focus on restoring bison on the landscape. I'd like to see more specific action items to make this possible. These animals roam the lowlands and need connected landscapes and wildlife corridors to thrive. Likewise, grizzly bears need habitat connectivity. The Plan does not adequately protect migration/dispersal corridors in the Bridgers or the I-90 barrier. I happen to live near Bozeman Pass, and know that with National Forest cooperation, there are several nearby landowners with their land in conservation easements that would love to see their legacy lands used by grizzlies once again.

Thank you for considering my comments. As the human population explodes in the Gallatin Valley, we have the power to buffer with Wilderness. The time is now. You have the power.

Thank you,
Ashley Martens
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