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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mary Erickson, Supervisor,

I am writing out of concern for Bison on the Custer Gallatin national forest. I have reviewed the proposed Custer Gallatin forest plan and what is not included is any language about management of national forest land for bison habitat. Bison should at this point be listed as a species of conservation concern. Bison inevitably will enter the Custer Gallatin, and now with increased tolerance by the state of Montana for free-roaming bison, will be allowed to remain on national forest lands. Where previously the Gallatin national forest plan did not mention bison, it was because the bison were forcibly hazed off of forest service lands, often assisted by forest service officers in conjunction with other agencies per the IBMP, back onto National park lands. Times have changed. Bison are now allowed to roam outside the confines of Yellowstone NP and onto the Custer Gallatin national forest. The Custer Gallatin national forest plan needs to include bison as a species of conservation concern!

With adaptive management now coming down the pipeline, the time to insert the species of conservation concern language for bison is now! Custer Gallatin will be the only national forest in the system to host wild, free-roaming, genetically pure bison! The honor is yours! It is up to you now to make sure that wildlife on these lands be protected and enjoyed for all.