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Comments: I am writing to request changes to the final Custer Gallatin National Forest Forest Plan. I am in disagreement with parts of the plan that ignore and invite foreseeable degradation of the wilderness character of our great forest, as follows.

GALLATIN AND MADISON RANGES

The proposed 79,631-acre Gallatin Crest Wilderness Area is insufficient. The Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area currently comprises approximately 155,000 acres, which were set aside for their wilderness character and potential. We cannot lose this critical area for wildlife, as a source of clean air and cold water, for the wildlife habitat it provides to the northern Yellowstone ecosystem. This entire area deserves full federal Wilderness designation.

Likewise, the plan must strengthen protection of the Hyalite, S. Cottonwood, Bozeman Creek watersheds. As currently proposed, the backcountry nature of these areas is likely to be degraded, both to the detriment of wildlife and quiet recreation. Please implement the protections described in Alternative C.

Please adopt the maximum recommended wilderness. The current plan drops (!) Wilderness designation of Cowboy Heaven in the Madison Range, plus greatly decreases wilderness reserved previously under the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area. Please implement the wilderness recommendations in Alternative C, thereby retaining critical conservation and recreation benefits.

CRAZIES

Please do not allow mechanized use in the proposed backcountry area of the Crazy Mountains. By expanding current use of motorized use we will see habitat degradation, increased fire hazard, and almost certain user conflict. In addition, the proposed Crazy Mountain backcountry area is far too small portion of the to currently wild, inventoried roadless area in the Crazies. We will lose wilderness character, and all the good that goes with that for wildlife conservation and the human spirit, unless we protect all currently roadless areas in the Crazies.