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Comments: September 7, 2020

Objection Reviewing Officer
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Subject: Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision #50185

As an American citizen who cares deeply about the protection and preservation of our nation's endangered species, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson's failure to include habitat standards for endangered wild buffalo in the Custer Gallatin land management plan.

Furthermore, I also take serious issue with Region One Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten's refusal to designate American bison as a species of conservation concern on our National Forests in the Northern region.

These majestic and essential animals are being managed to extinction by agencies more concerned with pandering to the livestock industry than ensuring the future survival of our National Mammal.

The last remaining wild bison of Yellowstone belong to ALL OF US and to future generations but this mindless persecution, if not stopped, will result in the total annihilation of the wild population. This is unacceptable!

It is of paramount importance that habitat standards in the Custer Gallatin land management plan be included for the benefit of America's last, but fast disappearing wild buffalo, so they may roam freely in our National Forests in the Yellowstone ecosystem as is their right.

It is ironic that this wild buffalo wipeout is carried out under the guise of stopping the spread of brucellosis despite NO documented cases of such transmission from wild bison to livestock. In fact, elk are more of a threat to livestock but there is never any call to cull elk to stop the spread. Instead, wild buffalo are demonized as culling elk, a favorite target of hunters, would cause an uproar among this small special interest group.

The current lethal "management" methods employed to pacify livestock ranchers, including the capture, quarantine and slaughter of scores of wild bison along with aggressive hunting, to achieve an arbitrarily low population goal, has resulted in the shocking decimation of the Central Herd which seriously threatens the genetic viability of these iconic animals.

In our country's not too distant past, these iconic animals were virtually driven to the brink. We must not allow such a scenario to happen again. If the senseless loss of such a magnificent species were to occur, the nation would be the poorer for it.

Yellowstone's distinct and irreplaceable wild buffalo herds are a national treasure and living symbols of our American heritage. Therefore, it is imperative that American wild bison be designated as a species of conservation concern to ensure the future presence of these migratory giants on our National Forests.

America's unique and rapidly vanishing wild buffalo herds deserve to occupy their place on our National Forests so generations to come will have the awesome experience of viewing these amazing animals in the natural and rightful habitat on our National Forests in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Including habitat standards and legal designation as a species of conservation concern will guarantee will continue to roam their native territory where they belong.

Sincerely,