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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

RE: Recommended Wilderness Areas.

Reasons for Objection: the Porcupine and Buffalo Horn drainages in the Gallatin Range include occupied grizzly bear habitat, and near the headwaters of those streams, habitat for Bighorn Sheep is located. Option F in the Plan does not do enough to protect these species. A backcountry designation allowing mechanized (or motorized) recreation falls short of what wildlife need for habitat and for connectivity from Yellowstone National Park up into the Gallatin Range. Additionally, cycling quietly and quickly through grizzly habitat needlessly risks encounters with bears. Wilderness is the best protection we can provide for wildlife sensitive to human activities. Given its past status as a Wilderness Study Area, and considering that it was designated as critical habitat for the grizzly bear when first listed, and as part of the bear's recovery zone, the Porcupine-Buffer Horn area should continue to enjoy a higher level of protection, in turn protecting wildlife.

Proposed Solution: Designate the Porcupine-Buffer Horn area as Recommended Wilderness.

Link between objection and prior formal comments: In my prior comment on June 4, 2019, I discussed the history of the Porcupine-Buffer Horn area including land ownership consolidations, legislation of 1977 and 1993, changes in recreational use, the history of the grizzly bear critical habitat area and recovery zone, wildlife utilizing the area, and advocated for Alternative D as it would enhance conditions for wildlife on the CGNF. This objection is informed by those comments.

Thanks for your consideration of these issues.