Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/8/2020 8:59:28 PM First name: Joan Last name: Montagne Organization: Title:

Comments: I wish to submit my comments especially regarding the Gallatin Range for the 2020 Land Management Plan.

In 1978 we began to urge Wilderness protection for the Madison and Gallatin Ranges as part of an organization known as the Madison Gallatin Alliance. I was Chair of this grass roots organization for 3 years enduring dead fish on our doorstep, heckling at community meetings and other abuse all because we valued the wild nature of these lands on the doorstep of Yellowstone National Park.

My family lived on the Porcupine Game Range for 2 summers doing PhD field work and became very familiar with this drainage and the Windy Pass area of the Gallatin Crest. The abundant wildlife were there year around and the illegal Big Sky Snowmobile Trail was phased out as the impact was become known on wintering bull elk on the Crest. A lawsuit finally banned motorcycles allowed in because of lack of enforcement by the USFS. It is as if the USFS never believed that this Wilderness Study Area was worthy of Wilderness designation and so allowed its wild nature to be degraded on purpose.

Now when we hike we are passed by mountain bikes (and electric bikes) who are gradually taking over Porcupine. The impact from Big Sky tourists is tremendous and at least one person said the rental shop told him that electronic bikes " were OK in Porcupine". Enforcement of this kind of activity is non existent and it is becoming part of the gradual expansion of the Big Sky scene. I expect to see a rental shop at the USFS Porcupine cabin next.

Only by banning bikes in the WSA will the impact on the wildlife be eased. Outlaw trails are being created all over !We do not have to recreate on wheels everywhere - they can go up Buck Creek Ridge or any of the Gallatin Canyon logging roads.

The Custer Gallatin NF does not need to be like everywhere else. This is a very special " Last Best Place" that does not need to succumb to the mass of people moving into our area. There needs to be places of solitude and slow pace unlike everywhere else on the Forest. Even with Wilderness protection the Taylor Hilgard has become like Disney World on a busy weekend.