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Comments: Objections to the 2020 Land Management Plan, Final EIS and Draft Record of Decision for Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision

The new Forest Plan is short sighted and legally defective. I object to it and urge you again to reconsider Alternative D which I recommend in my original comment. The failure of the new Forest Plan to set aside the over 700,000 acres of Recommended Wilderness in Alternative D and instead set aside only 125,675 acres of the total forest fails to adequately address environmental and social aspects of forest health and use. In particular your proposed plan by failing to set aside adequate wilderness areas fails to address these effects on the ecology of the Forest and surrounding area as a whole. It also jeopardizes the environmental health of Yellowstone National Park which in addition to being the major ecological reservoir of the area is also the major economic driver of the region because of its ecology. The failure to recommend between 250,000 and 270,000 acres of the Gallatin ranges as wilderness is enough by itself to turn Yellowstone into an island ecology in a generation or two. This failure is compounded by not including the following for wilderness classification: Lionhead, all proposal for additions to units of the Lee Metcalf WA, all proposals for additions to the Absaroka-Beartooth WA; the North Absaroka WA and Yankee Jim Lake. Classing these areas as wilderness areas would have protected the already ecologically stressed and challenged Yellowstone NP.

Additionally, the proposed plan's creation of 13 so-called Backcountry and 10 so-called Recreation Emphasis is a tacit admission that the Forest Service no longer has any intention of enforcing any rules whatsoever on forest users. This will invite further degradation of the land and wildlife in the minuscule wilderness that is proposed in the Plan.