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First name: Elanne

Last name: Palcich

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Protect habitat and list American bison as a species of conservation concern.

Dear Supervisor Erickson,

I object to your decision for failing to include habitat standards for American bison in the Custer Gallatin land management plan.

I also object to Region One Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten's decision for not designating American bison a species of conservation concern on our National Forests in the Northern region.

Please include habitat standards in the Custer Gallatin land management plan for American bison to freely roam our National Forests in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

Please designate American bison a species of conservation concern to ensure a viable future for the migratory giants on our National Forests.

The distinct and unique American bison herds remaining in the wild deserve standards and legal designations securing their presence on our National Forests for future generations.

The bison is a part of our natural heritage--as part of the life of the first human inhabitants of the West, and as part of our current public lands and Yellowstone National Park.

We must admit that the Wild West was part of our heritage--the fragments of the cowboy vs. the Indian mythology is carried on by those who have been caught in its spell. Yet the real facts of our history show how the U.S. government tried to extinguish the buffalo in order to bring the natives under submission, to destroy their livelihood and their culture.

The current ranching and hunting culture should not take precedence over the natural balance that is so needed on our planet.

Please take the above basic steps to help protect the vulnerable bison species and the habitat that is needed.

Sincerely,

Elanne Palcich

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