

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/8/2020 6:00:00 AM

First name: Bill

Last name: Arbon

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.

Thinking further, can you see Grizzly bears without Bison? Can you see wolves without Bison? What about Prairie Dogs? Can you see Prairie Dogs without Bison rolling around on their burrows? That is the pectoral reality of ecosystems. They are complete and interlocking. Not including all major players in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is short sighted at best and, worse, poses long term problems for isolated and artificially maintained Bison, bear, and wolf populations. Such a policy as this one will assure genetic roadblocks for these important large mammal species and countless species which benefit from their inclusion in the ecosystem. Nothing of what I write here is new to you and your staff. In fact, I'm sure you have much more information available to you than I. Please add Bison to your list of Species of Conservation Concern. A more fulsome effort at saving and protecting species of the intermountain west can only benefit the wildlife we claim to love and make the American people proud of the way we treat our national mammal!

Respectfully yours

Bill Arbon

Sources:

Bison:

<https://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org/images/what-we-do/species-of-conservation-concern/comments/Regional-Forester-Leanne-M-Marten-Species-of-Conservation-Concern-Custer-Gallatin-National-Forest-February-07-2019.pdf>

Bison sighted in Custer Gallatin in 1966 pg 149 Meager, Margaret Mary The Bison of Yellowstone National Park, Margaret Mary Meagher's The Bison of Yellowstone National Park

The complete work is available gratis online at this website:

<https://archive.org/details/bisonofyellowsto00meag/mode/2up>

Andrew C. Isenberg, The Destruction of The Destruction of the Bison

Wolves:

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/wolf-reintroduction-changes-ecosystem>

The Wolves Of Mt McKinley by Adolph Murie

The Soul of the Wolf by Michael W. Fox

Prairie Dog:

<http://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=AMAFB06020>

Sincerely,

Bill Arbon