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First name: Barbara

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Organization:

Title:

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

Dear Supervisor Erickson,

I strongly object to your decision to not include habitat standards for American bison in the Custer Gallatin land management plan. To have done so, would have enabled the Yellowstone buffalo herd to migrate to habitat they once populated and allow them to thrive as a species and not teeter on the edge of extinction as they are now, thanks to Montana's cattle industry.

I also object to Region One Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten's decision for not designating American bison a species of conservation concern in our National Forests in the Northern region. Marten's rationale for not listing American bison as a 'species of conservation concern' is completely missing from the Forest Service's decision and analysis documents. As of 2010, Montana Natural Heritage Program and FWP listed bison as a 'species of conservation concern' because they are native Montana animals considered to be 'at risk' due to declining population trends, threat to their habitat, and/or restricted distribution.

Please do the right thing and 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 in our National Forests for future generations.

Sincerely,

Barbara Trypaluk