Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2022 8:11:58 PM
First name: Katie
Last name: Ballard
Organization: @Loosescrew
Title:
Comments: * Wildlife biologists need to evaluate how logging, building roads, and prescribing fire near highways in Hebgen Basin effects migratory buffalo.

* Fire can be beneficial for habitat in the range of migratory buffalo, but it needs to be used in a manner that doesn't draw buffalo onto or across highways.

* The Custer Gallatin's analysis - cumulatively logging nearly 32 square miles of habitat and building 71 miles of road on the South Plateau and North Hebgen is somehow beneficial to wildlife species - doesn't pass muster.

* The Custer Gallatin needs to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement of all logging and road building underway and planned in Hebgen Basin, including in the South Plateau and North Hebgen.

* Cumulatively logging over 20,000 acres of habitat and building 71 miles of roads - the equivalent of building a road from West Yellowstone to Ennis, Montana - is a major action and significant long-term harm to wildlife, soils, and water quality.

* World class scenic views and visitors hiking the trails along the Continental Divide will also be harmed.

* More roads should be removed - not built - to provide secure habitat for grizzly bear, moose, and elk, and reduce sediment running into creeks and rivers in Hebgen Basin.

Resiliency, the oft-repeated purpose of SPLAT, also means the ability of wildlife species to withstand systematic pressures, random perturbations, and harmful events. According to Shaffer & Stein, Safeguarding our Precious Heritage (Oxford University Press 2000), "resiliency is also essential for the long-term survival of species."

The size, degree, and duration of the Custer Gallatin's logging and road building projects impairs the resiliency for wildlife species and the ecosystem in Hebgen Basin.