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First name: Yvette

Last name: Tapp

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wild life rights have been annihilated for centuries. Cattle, dairy cows, pigs, poultry their offspring and hatchlings are treated with unspeakable sadism, and the other life forms on Earth, the atmospheric balance, the loss of water, the pollution, the disrespect of & disregard for sentient life & Earth is dangerous, ignorant and disgusting. We all are included in these decision to harm one part of the life system, and the ripple effect. See the signs and instead of proceeding on with this destruction, stop and restore what has been taken away and destroyed. We need wildlife corridors, freedom to roam, a vast reduction in meat & dairy consumption, elimination of all we possibly can eliminate that creates unbearable experiences for life on Earth.

* 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.

I urge the Custer Gallatin to withdraw the SPLAT.