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Title:

Comments: I OPPOSE this oversized, invasive project as it will have an extremely negative impact on the wildlife, including Yellowstone's buffalo as they lose their forests homes to this giveaway to the timber industry. The public has a right to know the reality and consequences of this project so an Environmental Impact Statement is needed to let them know the ecological harm that the Custer Gallatin's logging and road building projects will inflict on their community.

Yellowstone buffalo already have a difficult time trying to survive and migrate due to being rounded up, sent to slaughter and killed by hunters every winter and spring. Too many are also killed on the highways as not enough is done to protect the bison and other wildlife on MT's highways. Therefore, it's essential that wildlife biologists evaluate how all this logging, building roads, and prescribing fire near highways in Hebgen Basin affects migratory buffalo. Bison are attracted to burned areas as new grass comes up so doing burns near the already deadly highways will only kill more buffalo.

The Custer Gallatin's analysis stating that 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 is absurd. Please explain how destroying the animals' forest home is good for them. 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. Please do your job before you destroy this important area that is home to many different kinds of wildlife. Not to mention the long-term negative affects it will have on water quality and the degradation of the soil that will be impacted by increased road building.

Instead of building more destructive roads, you should be removing ones that are already there. Fewer roads provide secure habitat for grizzly bear, moose, and elk, and reduce sediment running into creeks and rivers in Hebgen Basin.

SPLAT will mean the wildlife will have less of an opportunity to be resilient in the face of increasingly negative climate change events and other ways human interference can make surviving difficult for the wildlife; so resiliency, the often repeated purpose of SPLAT, will be much less likely to occur in the Hebegn Basin if this huge project is undertaken.

Therefore, I urge the Custer Gallatin to withdraw the SPLAT since your current proposal is the exact opposite of resiliency and will cause great harm to the ecosystem and wildlife who will be negatively impacted by this ill-thought out giveaway to the timber industry.