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Comments: Dear Mr. Hansen,

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Chalk Buttes Project on the Custer Gallatin National Forest. This project is being conducted under a Good Neighbor Authority agreement with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

While we appreciate certain elements of the proposed action (i.e., the removal of non-native Siberian elms and Russian olives), we are concerned that the project's purported restoration benefits have been misrepresented, along with flaws in the analysis of anticipated project impacts to at-risk species as outlined in our attached comments.