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Comments:

Although I currently reside in Iowa, I am relatively familiar with the areas covered by the Custer Gallatin National Forest Draft Management Plan since I have spent approximately 30 days collectively hiking and backpacking in this area. Over my 75 year lifetime I have witnessed how even minor intrusions by urban development can degrade wildlife habitat and complex ecosystems. My general concerns for this draft plan covering the Madison, Gallatin and Absaroka-Beartooth areas are these:

- 1) Promote wildlife migration corridors to prevent further fragmentation of wildlife habitat.
- 2) Provide and protect bison access to warmer areas during the harsh winters in these areas.
- 3) Include protections for headwaters everywhere in the relevant areas including Wild & Scenic designation for the South Fork of the Madison River where possible.
- 4) Recreational opportunities for diverse interests (hunting, mountain biking, fishing, hiking) should be included with an overriding directive to protect these lands and waters from becoming degraded.

Because I have great respect for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition's ability in the past to forge agreements among such diverse groups of people who love this geographic area, I tend to agree with that organization's preference for Plan C in the draft plan with their additional suggestions. Thanks for all the effort it must have taken to just reach this point in the plan.