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Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

It was when was in high school in the mid 70's that I first traveled to Montana and Wyoming. Just me and 3 buddies from the midwest. We had just turned 16 and received our driver's licenses. One of the guys convinced his Dad to loan us the family station wagon so that we could take his 15 year old brother to the Beartooth Mountains for his first backpacking trip.

Our trip through the Beartooth region for 10 days was life-changing.

40-plus years later we still make annual trips to the area, we've brought dozens of our family and friends to enjoy the region, and one of our guys raised his family there and still lives nearby. These are the some of the best places in the US, as anyone who has visited can attest, and I hope to protect (and possibly expand) them for future generations.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Forest Service to manage the following places as recommended Wilderness as reflected in Alternative D: Line Creek Plateau (the entirety of the plateau), Red Lodge Creek-Hellroaring Plateau, North Fork, Strawberry Creek, Chico Peak, Emigrant Peak, and Dome Mountain. And I also urge the managing of Bad Canyon as a Backcountry area with no mechanized and motorized recreation, as proposed in Alternative B.

As a member of the Montana Wilderness Association, I support a number of other measures. They include the protection of the Crazy Mountains to preserve their wilderness character, and managing the area with the important consultation with the Crow Nation. Also, it's important that we protect these roadless areas in the Pryor Mountains as recommended Wilderness: Lost Water, Big Pryor, Punch Bowl, and Bear Canyon. Additionally, we request:

Implementing the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement;

Maintaining the boundaries of the current recommended Wilderness in the Lionhead;

Managing the Tongue River Breaks, King Mountain, and Cook Mountain in the Ashland district as recommended Wilderness; and

Managing recommended Wilderness just like designated Wilderness, allowing only foot and horse travel in recommended Wilderness and not allowing any mechanized or motorized use.

I appreciate your time and consideration on these matters, and the opportunity to share my view.

Sincerely,

Robert C Buckley, Jr.