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Comments:

Alternative D is my choice for the following reasons:

- it has the highest number of recommended wilderness areas and acres. I would like to see all recommended wilderness areas included in the final Plan, with the maximum acres for each. I would like to see the entire HPBH WSA recommended for wilderness. I also support managing Bad Canyon (up to the RWA boundary) as a Backcountry Area with no mechanized and motorized recreation. I further urge that recommended wilderness and the WSA be managed just like designated Wilderness, allowing only foot and horse travel, and not allowing any mechanized or motorized use. I also hope the Forest Service adopts clear standards that prohibit non-conforming uses in RWAs and the WSA.

Too much of our forest resources have already been compromised away. If we continue to compromise our forest resources as the population grows, eventually the forest resources will be gone. It is not fair, nor does it make sense, to ask for balance or compromise between a finite resource and a growing population. Over time the growing population will win, and the finite resource will be compromised out of existence. Not only will human uses be lost, all other, non-human uses (other species and their habitat) will be lost too. We must draw the line and hold that line as the world downsizes to a sustainable population.

- it is the most restrictive on mechanized and motorized travel. We must consider not only the effects on trails and soil erosion, but also the effects on wildlife and the spreading of invasive weeds. Motorized and mechanized travel discourage more primitive forms of recreation, and causes additional off-trail damage such as hill climbing and building of jumps and obstacle courses. Whereas hikers typically shortcut switchbacks near the turn, bikers have been seen shortcutting at multiple points along the traverses. Uses that are more damaging to the resource should be restricted to the periphery of the forest.

- it is most supportive of the Native American way of life. Native American sacred areas and traditional uses should be respected within the limits of the resource. Since the lands in the Sioux Geographic Area are significant to Native American culture, it seems appropriate that they should have a higher level of protection. At the very least, motorized and mechanized uses should be restricted.

- it is the best Alternative for wildlife. Not only does it include the best provisions for wildlife corridors, because of its predominance of primitive recreation, it ensures wildlife will be more likely to get to use the corridors.

- it is the most proactive for support of bison. The CGNF should provide winter range for the Yellowstone herd, and allow them to roam freely in other parts of the CGNF.

- it is most restrictive of aircraft landing strips. This would be an inefficient use of Forest Service resources since it involves such a tiny fraction of users. Moreover, the capacity for landscape alteration is high, creating huge, unsightly scars ruining mountain meadows. This is the type of use that would discourage more primitive forms of recreation. The meager ½ page devoted to this use leaves the possibilities wide open. It is not even clear who sets the standards for construction. Would this lead to roads for bulldozers, trails and corrals for horses, permanent camps, latrines, satellite dishes? How many airstrips would be allowed? How close together could they be? What is the risk of fire, invasive weeds? Are they going to be cutting trees? This use should not be allowed under any Alternative.

- it is the top Alternative for conservation of ecosystems, according to Table 70 in the DEIS.

- it is one of the top Alternatives for relative contributions to social and economic sustainability, according to the same table. If you assign a number value to each Alternative: D=67, B=68, C=69, barely different. The other 2 are significantly lower.

- it supports the greatest number of restoration and enhancement projects. As such it sets the highest standard for meeting the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule for Ecosystem Sustainability.

- it has the highest percentage of very high scenic integrity. Scenery is synonymous with natural areas, especially areas with water and mountains. Even though scenery is a visual resource, noise is intrusive to the enjoyment of scenery, and so restriction of noise should be a consideration too.

- it has the most acres of primitive recreation. This will minimize impacts in the sensitive areas of the forest, because primitive recreationists are more likely to be enjoying the resources of the forest such as the clean air, the scent of the vegetation, the sound of the water, the views near and far, wildlife big and small. Other users tend to focus more on what they can do, such as go fast or shoot something or take something home or tweet an adventure. Their aim is conquest or dominance, whereas the primitive recreationist's aim is enjoyment of what is there. They know we cannot improve on Nature, and as a result take better care of it. They are recognizing their habitat, whether they realize it or not. This is the most important reason for preserving wild areas. Think of life without any of our native habitat left.