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Comments:

Dave Hallac, former chief of the Yellowstone Center for Resources stated in 2016, with regard to the Yellowstone Ecosystem, " I think we are losing this place. Slowly. Incrementally. In a cumulative fashion". He further states, " Yellowstone is the most intact ecosystem in the lower forty eight. It is time for us to do a lot better when it comes to protecting it".

In the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution, researchers from the University of Queensland and the Wildlife Conservation Society state. " nature retention targets establish baseline levels of natural system formation we need to preserve to ensure ecosystem health and the services they provide. Protected area networks are rarely designed to maximize their contribution to the over all retention of nature.

The Custer Gallatin National Forest, especially the landscapes known as the Montane ecosystem, as well as other forests, comprise a critical importance to the health of the Yellowstone ecosystem long term.

I share Hallac's concern for the health of Yellowstone's ecosystem and agree with the findings of researchers in the journal of Nature Ecology. I therefore, support ALTERNATIVE D of the Revised Draft of the Forest Plan, as a result, but would encourage the addition of the 230,000 wild Roadless areas of the Gallatin Range to be included as recommended wilderness in the final plan, with the safeguards provided as outlined in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Given the immense pressures imposed upon the natural world these days, I feel it is vital to do everything possible to ensure the vitality of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem well into the future.