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Comments:

I wish to echo some comments submitted by other well-spoken advocates for Alternative D. As volunteer co-leader of Great Old Broads Bozeman, I follow closely the opinions posted on the Public Reading Room and find it valuable to amplify some of the best points.

There is no other Forest that harbors the number and variety of endangered and big game species, and its value in protecting the watersheds of major rivers is priceless. These values far outweigh the value of providing "high quality recreation" experiences for people.

In this era of climate change, we have learned that a mass extinction is underway affecting all species on earth. We have a moral obligation to prioritize saving wildlife habitat with as little human disturbance as possible. I am in favor of limiting disturbance by a recommendation that 230,000 roadless acres of Wilderness protection be implemented by the Forest.

Seasonal closures within that Wilderness could be put in place to limit access to sensitive areas that wildlife need for giving birth to young, or for foraging just before denning (wolverine, grizzly). For example I was just in the Wilderness in the Santa Catalina Mountains in Arizona, and I noted restrictions that hikers stay within a certain distance of the trail from December through May, probably to protect desert bighorn sheep. Surely a management directive to limit all types of human intrusion in the Porcupine Buffalo Horn area during certain seasons would be appropriate. And with recent information that says large mammals will flee from human disturbance one half mile either side of the disturbance warrants prohibiting mechanized and motorized vehicles, which travel at speeds that limit the ability of wildlife to respond.

The problem with Alternative C is that the acreage and landscapes protected as wilderness are totally inadequate to assure a future for wildlife and connectivity corridors for their movement. I would like to see recommended Wilderness in the other roadless drainages included in the Montanans for Gallatin Wilderness 230,000 acre proposal, which we have submitted to your team several times in past years. The lower elevation drainages like South Cottonwood Creek, Sourdough, Trail Creek and West Pine Creek should be managed as Wilderness going forward, with steps taken to remediate invasive weeds and trail braiding from previous mechanized access, to move those areas toward restoration of wilderness quality.