

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/1/2019 2:54:33 PM

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Comments:

The best available scientific information supports strengthening alternative D with strong enforceable standards for American bison, bighorn sheep, and threatened grizzly bears.

\* Conserving American bison viability and diversity should be a forest wide standard.

\* Freedom for American bison to roam National Forest habitat should be a forest wide standard.

\* Connectivity to habitat for American bison should be a forest wide standard.

\* To restore connectivity, and conserve viability and diversity of American bison's genetically distinct subpopulations, the Custer Gallatin National Forest needs to adopt a standard to close and not permit cattle grazing allotments within American bison range.

\* The best available scientific information supports including enforceable standards to protect key linkage areas, connectivity to habitat, and food security for threatened grizzly bears.

\* The Custer Gallatin National Forest must adopt a forest wide standard for all grazing permits requiring "let-down" fencing and remove barriers that impede migration of native species.

\* Restore more wetlands, creek banks, and pond edges through strong standards and more yearly projects to benefit American bison and native species diversity.

\* The Custer Gallatin National Forest has a duty to fulfill its responsibilities and trust obligations safeguarding treaty rights, sacred species, sacred sites, and traditional cultural places of significance to aboriginal people.

In providing a reason, rationale, and evidence in support of my comments, it becomes "substantive," and much harder for the Custer Gallatin National Forest to ignore.

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A substantive comment is more likely to effect Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson's final decision.

Nitsíniyi'tak, Pidamaya, Thank you.

Darrell Geist, habitat coordinator  
Buffalo Field Campaign

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