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Comments:

I went to University of Montana for my undergraduate degree and stayed in Montana for three years after graduating. A large part of why I stayed and have visited Montana many times since is the incredible natural beauty and the ability to find true peace and wilderness. The value of places with protected status for both humans and wildlife is immeasurable. I have two sons, who I am hoping can travel to Montana throughout their lives and continue to enjoy places like Hyalite Reservoir, and Blodgett Canyon in the Bitterroot National Forest.

I am an advocate for Alternative D with an additional 230,000 acres of wilderness in the Gallatin Range and Alternative C Backcountry acreage in the Crazy Mountains designated RWA (Recommended Wilderness Area). The Gallatin Range is critical habitat for grizzly, bighorn sheep, elk, wolverine, wolf, cougar, and the threatened lynx. It is essential wintering and birthing grounds for some of the nation's largest elk herds. It contains 23 animal species listed as endangered, threatened or sensitive. Protecting these animals is essential and no proposal should be considered that could potentially harm the long-term survival of Montana's wildlife species.

Thank you for reading this note. Please do everything you can to protect Montana's wilderness for the sake of Montanans, Americans, and global citizens, as well as future generations.