

May 31, 2019

Comment on Custer Forest Options, by Ken Pierce.

I strongly prefer Option D, for the reasons stated below.

Option D has the largest area of possible wilderness in the Gallatin Range.

I have Parkinson's disease which limits my ability to get into the wilderness area shown in Option D, but I very much like the idea of this area be set aside and have the least impact on natural values.

The wildlife will appreciate such a designation.

We are crowding plants and animals (natural ecosystems) into increasingly smaller areas as humans and their works take over an ever expanding fraction of the Earth's productive zone.

Over time, the area designated as wilderness in Option D will become increasingly more precious, although wilderness areas are only about one percent of the surface of the Earth.

Note on my background. In 1964 I earned a doctorate in geology from Yale University. I worked until 2003 for the U.S. Geological Survey when I retired. After 2003 I and have continued as Emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey. I live at 48 Hitching Post Road in Bozeman in Montana.

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