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Comments:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the new CGNF management plan.

I am 78, a retired landscape architect and have lived near Gallatin Gateway for 50 years. I have walked nearly all the public trails within 75 miles of home.

I would like to comment specifically on SOUTH COTTONWOOD CANYON and the PORCUPINE, BUFFALO HORN areas.

But first, I want to emphasize that I strongly advocate for wilderness management for the benefit of wildlife on all wilderness eligible lands. And...I support enhanced connectivity between wild areas through places like the Chestnut area between the Gallatin and Bridger ranges including a possible wildlife over or underpass at Interstate 90.

Regarding SOUTH COTTONWOOD CANYON, thirty years ago, I was part of a group called the Concerned Citizens for South Cottonwood Canyon (CCCC) that negotiated public access into the canyon and the purchase of four sections in the Fox Creek area from Plum Creek Timber Company. At the time of the sale, Plum Creek stated that the highest and best use of these 4 sections was for enjoyment by the public in their natural state. South Cottonwood Canyon is pristine and I hope that it will be designated wilderness from near the trailhead/parking lot to the summit of Mount Blackmore.

Regarding PORCUPINE/BUFFALO HORN. This land was consolidated into public ownership by great public effort with the intent that it be maintained first and foremost for the benefit of wildlife. Wilderness designation is the best guarantee that this prime habitat will be protected. I realize that there is a lot of pressure from "interests of users" (mountain bikers) in this area. You have a difficult decision to make. I hope that we can err on the side of science, wildlife and the preservation of wild places. We don't need mechanical access to everywhere. The highest and best use for the public's interest in the P/BH is wilderness wildlife habitat.

Thank you