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First name: Joanne

Last name: Richter

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 60065 River Bluff Trail

Address2:

City: Bend

State: OR

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code:

Country: United States

Email: joanneerichter@gmail.com

Phone: 541-420-4861

Comments:

To whom it may concern. I am a Montana native, and one of the owners of a cabin on the Gallatin River near Big Sky where I've been recreating for 65 years. I have hiked extensively in the Spanish Peaks Wilderness as well as the Gallatin Range, and I'm a strong proponent for protecting wild roadless areas that have wilderness qualities, such as many currently unprotected areas in the Madison and Gallatin Ranges as well as the Pryor Mountains

I have read the Gallatin Forest Partnership's agreement, and strongly support the recommendations in this agreement which have been developed by a large group of local stakeholders with many diverse interests. I believe the Partnership proposal would protect the wild backcountry that provides invaluable wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreational opportunities for a variety of outdoor enthusiasts. Being a strong advocate for wilderness and wild lands, I urge you to protect every acre of every roadless area in the entire study area from proposed resource extraction activities and illegal road building.

The Gallatin Range is part of the intact Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and permanent protection of this diverse wild area is critical. I also urge you to protect lands with wilderness characteristics in the Crazy Mountains, the Absaroka Range, and the Pryor Mountains where I've spent many days exploring and appreciating the solitude offered by this isolated range. Thank you for your attention to these comments and I look forward to seeing the final EIS and supporting documents. Joanne