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Comments:

Covering more than three million acres, the Custer Gallatin National Forest in Montana is a stronghold for many wildlife species -- grizzly bears, gray wolves, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose -- that are sensitive to human disturbance and development. The long-term stability of these species is not secure.

The Gallatin Range is now at risk of being sacrificed for motorized and mechanized recreation, which puts animal species at increased risk.

I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan; however, they should be expanded to include the entire 230,000 acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.

The plan should prohibit in the Recommended Wilderness Areas all motorized and mechanized uses, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection, until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.