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Comments:

Motorized and mechanized recreation is not appropriate for wilderness areas. True wilderness has value not just for what it does for humans but also for what it is, with or without us. Wilderness is extremely important as an invaluable source of wildlife habitat, biological diversity, high water quality and numerous other values found nowhere else. Wilderness is also important to me as a place to experience nature and the peace and quiet found there.

Therefore I wholeheartedly agree with the Sierra Club's Wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the draft forest plan, with the suggested improvements outlined below, would offer the best protection for the Gallatin Range and other critical wildlife habitat across the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Alternative D creates 39 Recommended Wilderness areas totaling over 711,000 acres, including the Gallatin Range, Lionhead, Crazy Mountains, Bridger Range, Cowboys Heaven, Deer Creeks, Line Creek Plateau, Emigrant Peak, West Fork Rock Creek, Red Lodge Creek, Pryor Mountains, and Tongue River Breaks.

Our wild lands, wildlife and nature are our cultural treasures and must be protected. Natural resources should not have a price tag. To quote Theodore Roosevelt, regarding wild lands "Our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred." "We are prone to speak of the resources of this country as inexhaustible; this is not so." Please do everything you can to keep this wilderness wild.