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Comments:

Attachment Yellowstone National Park

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Revised Forest Plan, Custer Gallatin National Forest. The plan is very thorough and discusses many possible management scenarios. For lands adjacent to Yellowstone National Park, Alternative D seems to align best with park goals and objectives.

The National Park Service (NPS) is committed to preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and noxious weeds, addressing bison migration outside park boundaries in a cooperative manner, maintaining and reestablishing native fisheries, and working together with our neighboring land management agencies to ensure a consistent approach to wildfire management. We appreciate the effort that has gone into this Forest Plan Revision, and look forward to continuing our excellent working relationship to improve resource conditions and the visitor experience.

Due to the very close proximity of national forest lands to the northern and western boundaries of Yellowstone National Park, management actions by the U.S. Forest Service can potentially affect park resources. We wish to maintain open dialogue, and request consultation prior to implementation of any actions on national forest lands that could affect park resources.

Specific Comments:

1. Gallatin and Deckard Flats (located adjacent to the northern boundary of the park) and Cabin Creek South (located adjacent to the western boundary of the park) Recommended Wilderness Areas would provide management consistent with park uses and goals for both wildlife and recreation.
2. Alternative D offers the most accommodation for wild bison to inhabit unoccupied, suitable habitat on U.S. Forest Service lands.
3. Riparian Management Zones have been reduced from a total width of 300 feet to a width of 200 feet for Category 1 streams. We see this as an adverse impact on native fisheries, wildlife travel corridors, and water quality. Please consider maintaining the current width of 300 feet.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and input on the proposal. We wish to be notified of important updates in the planning process as it moves forward.

