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Comments:

The Custer Gallatin National Forest in Montana spreads out over three million acres, with thriving populations of grizzly bears, gray wolves, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose. This ecologically-fragile area is very sensitive to human disturbance and development.

The proposed Custer Gallatin Forest Plan revision process puts at risk this sensitive habitat, if it permits unchecked motorized and mechanized recreational usage.

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 wilderness 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. Protecting these areas would maintain the bio-diversity of the region.