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Dear Custer Gallatin National Forest,

Thank you for all your hard work putting this draft management plan together. I'm sure it's not easy to balance so many different strong opinions about how the forest should be managed. I'd like to personally thank you for your service and your work to protect and provide opportunities on our public lands.

I work as a wildlife guide in Yellowstone National Park, so quality habitat for wildlife and intact ecosystems is critical to my well-being, both financial and spiritual. To help ensure connectivity, I would appreciate all recommended wilderness to be managed like designated wilderness to ensure quality habitat for all wildlife within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. With exponential population growth and rising numbers of tourists, it will be critical for plants and animals to have space to themselves so they thrive, and future generations of humans can enjoy what we get to experience today. Wilderness managed as wilderness is critical for this.

I also recreate extensively on the forest. As the West grows, we're going to experience much more user conflict on our public lands. I anticipate a lot of shouting at each other. For this reason, I'm asking you to implement the Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement. The GFPA is a great example of various stakeholders hearing each other and working together to find a plan that works the best for everybody. It sets a great precedent for how collaboration can make for great community planning on public lands. I'm sure you'll hear a lot of loud voice from all sides of the spectrum, however the GFPA represents the middle. It's grounded in cooperation with insight from science, policy, and what matters to many of us who live in the community because of our love of open spaces, mountains, thrilling recreation, and opportunities to experience wildlife and wild places. Because it's a fair plan hashed out by a variety of stakeholders to balance multiple uses in a sustainable fashion, I hope you'll implement the GFPA.

Thank you for your hard work,
Ben Wickham