

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/6/2019 7:21:20 AM

First name: Katrina

Last name: Yurenka

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 7 Darcie Drive

Address2:

City: Jaffrey

State:

Province/Region: New Hampshire

Zip/Postal Code: 03452

Country: United States

Email: kyurenka@gmail.com

Phone: 6035325983

Comments:

Today is the last day the Custer Gallatin National Forest is taking public comment on it's proposed forest plans. Every 20-30 years the forest plans are revised on over 3 million acres. Now is the time for your voice to be heard for the grizzly bear. This national forest borders the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park. By protecting these remaining wildlands, it will provide the secure habitat to connect Yellowstone National Park grizzlies with Glacier National Park grizzlies. It's also creates 230,000 acres of new wilderness!

For those of you who have been following the story of the orphaned grizzlies, this is their home range. The Tom Miner Basin, they called home, is surrounded by the Gallatin National Forest. All grizzlies that come to the Tom Miner Basin to dig caraway root pass through this forest. That's why we are asking that the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area become designated wilderness. This wilderness study area is no place for mountain biking or off-road vehicle (ORV) use. Mountain biking can disturb wildlife up to a mile on each side of the trail.

The Bridger and Crazy Mountains are important linkage ranges for Glacier National Park and Yellowstone grizzly bears. The Crazies are also historically and culturally significant to the Crow Native American Indian Tribe. Ask the Forest Service to support the wishes of the Native Americans and that all recommended wilderness in these two ranges be designated as such.

I-90 and state highways are major barriers to connecting these isolated ranges. I am asking the Forest Service to encourage and support wildlife overpasses and underpasses in order to allow safe passage of grizzly bears and other wildlife.

I am asking the Forest Service to choose Alternative-D. It provides the most protection of critical core habitat, roadless areas, and also creates 230,000 acres of new wilderness.