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Comments:

Wallace Stegner said, "Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed..." With the human world ever encroaching upon what remains of the roadless wildlife habitat on this planet, particularly here in Montana, extra care must now be taken to preserve as much of this wilderness as possible, for once it is opened up to mechanically-aided human use, its value to wildlife as a refuge is destroyed.

Alternative D in the draft forest plan would offer the best protection for the Gallatin Range and the other critical wildlife habitats across the Custer Gallatin Forest. Alternative D creates thirty nine 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.

Please do what's right for the sake of the wildlife which has no voice in this matter other than that which we give to them: "Preserve our home intact so we can continue to live on despite your ever-encroaching presence. ONLY YOU can ensure our survival by designating our home as wilderness."

Thank you to your thoughtful consideration and forethought in this crucial decision.