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First name: James

Last name: Hughes

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 340 NE Crest St. Unit 2

Address2:

City: Sublimity

State:

Province/Region: OR

Zip/Postal Code: 97385

Country: United States

Email: jbhughes2003@yahoo.com

Phone: 6266536161

Comments:

To Mary Erickson,

You are so very blessed to have such magnificent animals on and around the forest which you preside over and as a concerned American taxpayer and a fellow federal employee, I am here on behalf of improving the lives of these and that of our beloved American bison. The American bison has been purged, slaughtered, and harassed for far too long. One would have thought this would have stopped a long time ago but unfortunately it has been hidden from the public eye. It is a total disgrace how these magnificent creatures have been treated and I find it disgraceful that our National Park Service has the gall to put the bison insignia on their emblem and patch so I am here writing on behalf of these magnificent creatures so that you can take it in your heart to put forth measures to improve the lives of these majestic animals. I am here to ask you to support and strengthen Alternative D, which will not only serve to benefit the bison, but those of the bighorn sheep and of the threatened grizzly bears. I encourage you to support Alternative D with enforceable standards forest wide for these glorious and wonderful animals.

Strengthening and adopting Alternative D is the absolute best way to go for all that is involved. I believe that the Custer Gallatin National Forest needs to uphold its responsibilities to the Native People(s) by safeguarding treaty rights, sacred species, sacred sites, and the traditional cultural places of significance that these people hold so dearly and have rights too. I believe that the Custer Gatlin NF needs and adopt a forest wide standard for all grazing permits and require "let down" fencing and tear down barriers that impedes the migration of native species including the American Bison which have done for thousands of years. The Custer Gallatin NF needs to improve the diversity of the bison by allowing free migration and to not allow cattle grazing on bison habitat. Not only does the Custer Gallatin NF need to adopt new standards for the bison but for the bighorn sheep as well. The Custer Gallatin NF needs to improve the diversity of the bighorn sheep by improving the connectivity of its species not allowing grazing permits on bighorn sheep range. This will greatly improve the health and welfare of these species through improving the genetic diversity. The Custer Gallatin NF needs to enforce a forest wide standard to establish wildlife safe passage corridors' to enable wildlife the ability roam freely to migrational habitat including protection for the bison without impedece on the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

You are so blessed to have such magnificent animals on your National Forest. These animals are what signify and represent the true wild America and only you can take it on your behalf to make sure that these animals not only survive but thrive and be preserved for generations to come. This is why I again ask you to strengthen and support Alternative D, all of the best scientific evidence supports it. No matter the political implications and intimidation you encounter, I will pray that you will do the right thing and support this alternative not only for the animals but for that of future generations to enjoy.

Thank You,

James Hughes