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First name: Joan

Last name: Montagne

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 1105 South Tracy Ave

Address2: APT, SUITE, BLDG (OPTIONAL)

City: Bozeman

State:

Province/Region: United States of America

Zip/Postal Code: 59715

Country: United States

Email: joan.montagne@gmail.com

Phone: 4065997784

Comments:

My primary interest is in the Gallatin Range which is protected by a WSA designation. The Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn was a big part of our work to designate the Lee metcalf Wilderness in 1979-1982.

As the population of Big Sky and Bozeman explodes, the protection of the wildlife habitat and wildland becomes even more critical. There have to be some places on the Custer Gallatin where use by humans takes a back step. We do not have to organize and play on every inch of public land.

The Gallatin Crest has been a snowmobile race area and trail, a running race and now a proposed mountain bike playground. The Cabin Creek Wildlife Management Unit of the Lee Metcalf slowly devolved into a play area for snowmobiles and ATV's when wildlife was supposed to be the top priority.

I have no doubt that with land exchanges and the political power games, the Taylor Hilgards would now have ski runs on them if not protected by Wilderness designation. The Gallatin Range could have a similar fate as it is reduced to the lowest common denominator. This land is too unique to be managed as something for every user.

I urge the USFS to work toward Plan " D" which would protect through management the largest amount of wildland possible.