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Comments:

As a lifelong resident of Montana, I am writing this comment in support of Alternative A of the Forest Plan Revision. I feel we should leave things as they are. Recreation is replacing conservation to the detriment of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The United States Forest Service (USFS) has a very important role to preserve what we have left of the forests. For example, many of these lands are part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, which are some of the last places that contain sensitive species such as the wolverine and Canadian Lynx. If we keep building and tearing up these wildlife habitats at the rate we are going, unfortunately, they will be lost forever.

I feel any Forest Plan Revision needs to respect the areas of tribal importance identified in the Tribal Importance Report dated November 29, 2016 by Halcyon LaPoint, Heritage Program Lead; and Mike Bergstrom, Zone Archaeologist.

Another important point not mentioned in the Forest Plan Revision is the USFS has publicly stated it has no money in its budget (and reduced staffing levels) to maintain current trails and other USFS facilities; i.e., restrooms and roads. Why would it be feasible to open and create more? For example, public trails in the Crazy Mountains (of which I am intimately familiar) get little to no maintenance and, this has been going on for years.

I feel these lands were set aside for the relaxation and enjoyment for all. No matter how much more we create, it will still never be enough. So, as we move forward leaving our footprint, it is our responsibility to leave it better than before. Remember, these decisions will affect future generations. These natural places were never intended to be an outdoor gymnasium.

Thank you for taking my comment into consideration.