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Comments:

The Custer Gallatin National Forest is made up of isolated islands of forest that stretch from north of Yellowstone National Park to Helena in the north and all the way to northwest South Dakota in the east.

We need to save the Absaroka & Beartooth and Gallatin Forest (just north of Yellowstone), the Bangtail & Bridgers, and the Crazy Mountains for the proposed new wilderness (230,000 acres) that is vital core habitat for the grizzly bear. Grizzlies need all the wildlands protected that we can get. It is crucial that they have secure wild habitat void of mountain bikers and ORV's. There is not much critical habitat left and it all needs protection.

Along with protecting the habitat, we need to focus on connectivity and safe passage of the grizzlies between these isolated pieces of national forest. By protecting the Gallatin National Forest, it will provide the secure habitat to connect Yellowstone National Park grizzlies with Glacier National Park grizzlies.

I am in support of Alternative D which provides the most amount of new wilderness and habitat protections for the grizzly bear.

Thank you for your honest consideration.