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Hello CGNF Managers,

First I want to recognize and thank you for your work to make your way through these comments and give consideration to multiple points of view on a landscape very near and dear to so many people's hearts. Your task is huge, important, and valued.

I am a fourth generation Montanan born and raised in the Gallatin Valley. My great grandparents settled in the Maudlow area at the base of the Bridger Mountains in the late 1800's. They worked the land and made large and lasting contributions to the ranching and farming community in the area. Our family, and their neighbors and friends, worked the land together and have used and appreciated the wildlands of the area for more than a century.

I believe my ancestors would be proud of the fact that neighbors are still working together to come up with solutions for these lands. I'm specifically referring to the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement. This agreement takes a balanced approach to a working and heavily used landscape. It protects some of the most precious wildlands and wildlife habitat in the area yet still addresses the influx of people in the area and their recreational needs. Those people just like my ancestors did long ago have the right to use, enjoy, and appreciate the land.

I recently read an op-ed by Shane Doyle about the importance of the Crazy Mountains to his Crow people. To provide management of a landscape that best aligns with the way his Crow ancestor's experienced it, would be ideal. In my mind, this management would include our strongest protections, Wilderness. I strongly encourage the planning team to listen to the Crow people and respect their wishes and perspectives for how their native landscapes should be managed.

People across the country see the areas within the Custer Gallatin National Forest as places for refuge. People are moving here because of our beauty, wild places, communities, and quality of life. People will continue to come and fill up the valley, those people will seek solitude and outdoor opportunities in the high country. Therefore, I strongly encourage the forest service manage recommended Wilderness just like designated Wilderness, with no motorized or mechanized vehicles. I believe Montana is a big state and there is plenty of space for all types of recreational uses, but I also believe there are still some places to special to change that need the strongest management protections.

Again, thank you for your time and efforts to ensure proper management of the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Best,

Laura Parr

Three Forks and Helena