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Comments:

Yet, one thing has remained unchanged in the 32 years since the last plan: no new wilderness designations.

The greater Yellowstone ecosystem is home to some of the best, most diverse and intact wildlands in the lower 48: it still is home to all the major species of mammals that were present on this continent prior to the arrival of europeans, having long provided refuge for elk, bison, wolverine and grizzly (and room for the return of the wolf); its wildlife migration corridors are greater and more extensive than anywhere else. All of this possible because it contains habitat that is largely unfragmented and still intact in the 21st century.

Outside of Yellowstone National Park, wilderness is the greatest means of protecting the habitat and wildlands so crucial to preserving the uniqueness and diversity of wildlife in the Yellowstone region, and the Gallatin Range is the most deserving of wilderness designation. Since 1978 a wilderness area has been proposed in the Gallatin's, and the reality is long overdue.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of the Forest Service adopting Alternative D as identified in the proposed Custer Gallatin National Forest Draft Revised Forest Plan. Adopting Alternative D will be the best choice to help to preserve and hold for future generations the wilderness habitat needed to support the wildlife and ecosystems that make the Custer Gallatin National Forest the unique and wonderful place that it is. If you do not adopt Alternative D, remember that more area will be altered, fragmented and lost in the future, and the populations of wildlife that inhabit these ecosystems will suffer accordingly. Once lost, these places willnot recover. Please do the right thing and adopt Alternative D!

Sincerely,

Nacoya Madden.

There are currently five alternatives proposed for the revised Plan by the Forest Service. PCEC fully supports Alternative D, which designates an appropriate percentage of forest as wilderness, not only in the Gallatin Range, but in other regions of the Custer Gallatin. If we want to ensure that the greater Yellowstone continues to maintain its vital importance for wildlife, intact habitat and ecological diversity for generations to come, as well as our reverence for wild places, we must encourage the Forest Service to enact a management plan that can provide for that reality.