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Comments:

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Management Plan for the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

I appreciate all wilderness and roadless areas for their use, bequest, and existence values. I like to hike and camp myself (use), and, like many others, I want to save these precious areas so my son and possible grandchildren can also enjoy them (bequest). But it is their EXISTENCE VALUE that I want to highlight here. I think we all (and am including not just humans in this "we") benefit from just knowing that wilderness exists and will never be altered from its pristine state. Though I may never travel to and experience firsthand even a majority of the lands set aside as wilderness in Montana, I gain pleasure and satisfaction just knowing they exist for their own sake. To accomplish this goal, I support managing recommended wilderness the same as designated wilderness, allowing only foot and horse travel not mechanized or motorized use.

Among the wildlands I feel should be protected are the Crazy Mountains, roadless areas in the Pryor Mountains, and the current boundary for the Lionhead. For recommended wilderness, I support inclusion of the Tongue River Breaks, King Mountain, and Cook Mountain in the Ashland district.

At one time I lived in the shadow of the great Absaroka Range and spent many hours admiring its beauty and traversing its trails. I believe strongly that we should keep currently recommended wilderness in the Absaroka Beartooth area, plus add Dome Mountain, Emigrant Peak, Chico Peak, Woodbine, East Rosebud to Stillwater, and Red Lodge Creek to the plan.

Finally I implore you to implement the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement's provisions.

Thanks so much.

Ginny Cowan