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To whom it may concern:

Long enamored by the magnificence of the Crazy Mountains as they rose mightily out of the prairie, I made my first excursion into the Crazies in the summer of 1981. What I discovered was incredibly rugged and beautiful country that simply took my breath away. If the Asaalooke people found the Crazy Mountains a sacred place, it was certainly understandable, given the terrain offered a cathedral-like majesty. Soaring mountains, steep edifices of rock, a river of life roaring down Big Timber Canyon - one could only be humbled by an experience of the holy.

Since that time, I have made a number of trips to the Crazies and will continue to do so as long as I am capable. Though the mountains have become more crowded than they were back in 1981, one can still find places of solitude where the wonder of creation can be experienced in the soul. These lands can speak to the core of the being. For this reason, the Crazy Mountains demand protection. Though not currently managed as a designated wilderness, the Crazies certainly deserve such a designation.

I strongly encourage the United States Forest Service and in particular the Custer Gallatin National Forest to continue to protect the Crazy Mountains, preserving the incredible wilderness values the Crazies hold. In addition, I would highly recommend that any decisions regarding the management of these mountains be done in consultation with the Crow Nation, which values these mountains as sacred.

Sincerely,

James Scott Hedegaard