

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 9/8/2020 11:40:39 PM

First name: Michael

Last name: McLaughlin

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Protect habitat and list American bison as a species of conservation concern.

Dear Supervisor Erickson,

I object to your decision for failing to include habitat standards for American bison in the Custer Gallatin land management plan. I also object to Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson's decision for failing to include habitat for American bison in the Custer Gallatin land management plan.

I also object to Region 1 Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten's failure to recognize the American bison as an important species of conservation concern on our Northern Region National Forests

Please include bison habitat standards in the Custer Gallatin land management plan for American bison to freely move and disperse in our National Forests of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

Please designate American bison a species of conservation concern to ensure a viable future for the migratory herds on our National Forests.

At present bison attempting ancient migratory routes out of Yellowstone N.P. have been subject to inordinate culling and killing, although they are merely entering National Forest lands.

These bison are both genetically pure and unique, and constitute a healthy, but small population. Over time, this small population may be increasingly in danger of loss of heterozygosity, and this is a significant cause of conservation concern.

The distinct and unique American bison herds remaining in the wild deserve standards and legal designations securing their presence on our National Forests for future generations.

Very few bison, all extremely fragmented and prevented, considered and healthy ground-breaking with other remnant populations now occur. This is also a grave long-term concern.

Too little habitat has remained in North America for this ungulate, whose ecological effects have been shown advantageous. Their last refuges are in our National Forests, as the miniscule grasslands are small patches, hugely separated.

Custer-Gallatin remains the most economical and appropriate public land to assist in bison and their habitat preservation.

These bison have repeatedly been tested free from Brucella.

Elk are the primary carrier of the infection, yet, no N.F. prevents their seasonal migration.

Bison are a far smaller and extinction-threatened species.

Bison also constitute a public draw, economically benefiting the region around Custer/Gallatin, and allowing natural dispersal into this small portion of their ancient range will enrich CG's value as public good.

As repeat visitors to the area, my family and I would like to visit without having to focus our visits to YNP, which is vastly overused with tourism. We visit for wildlife, and CGNF stands as the best alternative natural landscape, should the native species be restored there. Management plan.

I also object to Region One Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten's decision for not designating American bison a species of conservation concern on our National Forests in the Northern region.

Please include habitat standards in the Custer Gallatin land management plan for American bison to freely roam our National Forests in the Yellowstone ecosystem.

Please designate American bison a species of conservation concern to ensure a viable future for the migratory giants on our National Forests.

The distinct and unique American bison herds remaining in the wild deserve standards and legal designations securing their presence on our National Forests for future generations.

Sincerely,
Michael McLaughlin
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