

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 9/8/2020 12:00:00 AM

First name: Ashley

Last name: Lipscomb

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

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

Dear Supervisor Erickson,

I spent Winter 2019/2020 helping national and international volunteers monitor the migration patterns of wild Bison on National Park and National Forest lands. People from all over the world came to West Yellowstone, MT to not only see the bison but protect them and their habitat as well. The bison didn't stay tucked away in Yellowstone National Park (YNP). They came out of YNP onto National Forest land to escape deep snow and give birth to new bison in the spring. Suitable bison habitat exists all the way to Taylor Creek along HWY 191, which is National Forest land. Please accept that suitable bison habitat does exist on the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and acknowledge bison as a species of conservation concern in the revised Forest Plan. The IBMP should not guide how you make decisions for bison but rather a forest plan that acknowledges the ecological importance of bison across the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

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 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,

Ashley Lipscomb