

Exhibit 1

From: Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance <wild@gallatinyellowstonewilderness.org>

Date: Mon, 14 Feb 2022 17:32:39 -0800

Subject: FOIA - Custer Gallatin National Forest

To: SM.FS.R1FOIA@usda.gov

Dear USFS Region 1,

Please find GYWA's FOIA attached pertaining to the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn WSA in the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Sincerely,

Adam Bronstein

February 14, 2022

VIA EMAIL: SM.FS.R1FOIA@usda.gov

Re: FOIA Request— | Custer Gallatin National Forest

Dear USFS Region 1:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, made on behalf of the Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance (GYWA).

Pursuant to the FOIA, please send GYWA copies of the following records relating to the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (WSA):

1. Reports, studies, datasets, memoranda, written notes, phone call records, letters, faxes, photos, field trip reports and emails concerning use and authorization of use of motorized and mechanized recreation in the area that is now designated as the WSA prior to the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977.
2. Reports, studies, datasets, memoranda, written notes, phone call records, letters, faxes, photos, field trip reports and emails, concerning use and authorization of use of motorized and mechanized recreation in the area that is now designated as the WSA from 1977 to the present.
3. Documentation (in any form) of trespass violations, illicit trail building and public fines concerning motorized and mechanized recreation in the WSA from 1977-present.
4. Reports, studies, datasets, memoranda, written notes, phone call records, letters, faxes, photos, field trip reports and emails concerning impacts to wildlife in the area that is now the WSA pre 1977 from motorized and mechanized recreation.
5. Reports, studies, datasets, memoranda, written notes, phone call records, letters, faxes, photos, field trip reports and emails concerning impacts to wildlife populations in the WSA from 1977-present from motorized and mechanized recreation.

Under the FOIA, the Forest Service must make a determination on GYWA’s request within 20 working days. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). A determination consists of

a statement whether the agency will comply with this request, the reasons therefore, and informs the requester of the right to appeal an adverse decision. **Please let us know what cutoff date you use for this request.**

GYWA requests a waiver of any search and copy costs related to the above request. GYWA is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving undeveloped public lands on the Custer Gallatin National Forest. To do so, GYWA actively participates in agency decision-making concerning wilderness-eligible public lands throughout the Forest. GYWA board members and supporters frequently visit the WSA and surrounding wildlands and have an interest in their current and future management.

One of the core aspects of GYWA's mission is to educate and inform the public about the natural wonders of the roadless lands of the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and about land, resource and wildlife decisions made by government, private, and other entities that affect the natural environment and wildlife. GYWA is effective at increasing public awareness of wilderness values, in particular protection of undeveloped roadless lands, through public education and outreach, participation in administrative processes, and other enforcement of federal environmental laws.

The requested records concern government activities regarding management of the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn WSA. The information requested will help GYWA and the public understand what effect travel management is having and/or will have in the WSA and whether the Forest Service has complied with all statutory and regulatory requirements. The public has a great interest in preserving natural resources, especially rare/protected species, and thus a great interest in determining whether federal agencies are making management decisions that protect these resources. The public also has an interest in knowing whether federal agencies are complying with all required standards and laws and properly managing public lands to avoid degradation and damage.

GYWA will use the requested information to contribute to the public's understanding of grazing management decisions and their impacts on watersheds in the Custer Gallatin National Forest by analyzing the information and presenting it to the public. GYWA has board members who are familiar with agency practices and who have scientific backgrounds providing expertise in wilderness and wildlife management. These members have the expertise and capability to assess, analyze, and summarize the requested management and scientific documents and then use that information to inform the public about the Forest Service's management practices and conditions of WSAs on federal lands.

GYWA has the ability to disseminate this information to the public both orally and in written form through reports, news articles, and presentations. GYWA uses the media to disseminate information to the public, with news articles appearing in papers across Montana discussing GYWA's work and wilderness/roadless issues with which GYWA is involved. In addition to the media, GYWA participates in conferences, where it disseminates information and reveals results of its studies and projects to scientists, lawyers, conservationists, and other interested publics. It participates in educational outreach such as a newsletter discussing its current work. Finally, it also disseminates

information through its website and email notices. See www.gallatinyellowstonewilderness.org. The website contains press articles, updates on GYWA's current work, information about government activities and management decisions, as well as research reports and scientific articles. Many of the reports and articles that GYWA distributes are based on information obtained through FOIA requests.

As the only organization advocating for all roadless lands to be designated as Wilderness in the Custer Gallatin National Forest, GYWA is an important hub of information for both its supporters and the general public who have an interest in the health and management of our public lands. The disclosure of the requested documents to GYWA will significantly contribute to public understanding of government activities because these documents are not readily available to the public without such a request. These are not the type of documents the agency routinely publicizes or otherwise broadly disseminates to the public on a normal basis. Thus, a FOIA request is required to obtain the documents. As noted, GYWA will use its skills and expertise to analyze these documents, to assess the Forest Service's management decisions, its compliance with standards and other requirements, and the effects of management decisions in the WSA. It is the product of this analysis that will significantly contribute to the public's understanding of whether the Forest Service is properly managing its lands and resources. GYWA's sole interest in requesting these documents is to further its mission of protecting roadless lands as Wilderness on the Forest, and to educate its supporters and the general public to enable and empower them to advocate for this protection. GYWA is a non-profit, public interest organization and has no commercial or profit interest in this information.

Please send documents to Nancy Schultz; Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance: P.O. Box 5256; Bozeman, Montana 59717 or preferably by electronic means to wild@gallatinyellowstonewilderness.org. If you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact me. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

/s/ Adam Bronstein

Adam Bronstein
GYWA Board of Directors
Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance
P.O. Box 5256
Bozeman, MT 59717

541.410.1309 (phone)

wild@gallatinyellowstonewilderness.org