MONTANA NATIVE
PLANT SOCIETY
PO Box 8783 ● Missoula, MT 59807-8783

Mr. Jabus Smith
Custer/Gallatin National Forest
Box 37, Main and First
Camp Crook, SD 57724

27 April 2026

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Chalk Buttes Project plan. I am writing on behalf of over 900 members of the Montana Native Plant Society (MNPS). The Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, conserving, and studying Montana's native plants and plant communities, and educating the public about the values of our native flora.

MNPS believes that you have done a thorough job of considering native plants in your plan. Populations of species of concern should be monitored if they are in a zone of treatment. *Geum canadense* occurs in green ash woodlands in the Chalk Buttes and is rare in Montana, a more eastern species, known to occur only in riparian areas and green ash woodlands in the extreme southeast, higher-elevation portion of our state. Green ash woodlands are a threatened habitat in Montana and very prone to degradation by disturbance. This habitat should be avoided during the project. This is also true for riparian areas. We realize that this project is meant to improve the condition of old-growth ponderosa pine woodlands; however, disturbance from thinning, under-burning, and road building can degrade the habitat and allow weed invasions. We suggest that these treatment areas be monitored prior to and after treatments in order to determine if additional work is needed.

Regards,

Dr. Robert Pal

Robert Pal
President, Montana Native Plant Society