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Comments:

I am writing in support of Alternative D. I have been an advocate for including more Wilderness in the Gallatin, Custer National forest for nearly 50 years. In the 1970's I worked both as an outfitter/guide and as Special Deputy Sheriff for Park County Montana, which included working for the U.S Forest Service Gardiner District. My duties included guiding people on horse and on foot in what was then known as the Beartooth Primitive Area. I also engaged in search and rescue operations for the FS and Park County sheriff's office.

Keeping our options open for expanding Wilderness is the prudent course. Few but the most hardcore anti-Wilderness individuals and groups would deny creating the Beartooth/Absaroka Wilderness was a great gift to people, the landscape, and wildlife. Connecting the two by eliminating the Slough Creek Corridor was also a prudent and wise action. Unfortunately, cherry stems, such as the Boulder River area to accommodate mining claims diminish its value. Allowing further cherry stems to accommodate thrillcraft (Bicycles or Snowmobiles) as part of the Plan Revision would essentially void any potential for integrating these areas into the larger landscape.

I urge the Forest planners to consider the great accomplishments of the past and focus on the great potential the future holds for expanding on a legacy that was undeniably the right action.

Thank you.