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Comments:

The draft plan has little direction for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. I have the following recommendations to the plan:

- Reduce group size limits from 25 to 8 head of stock, and from 15 to 12 people, based on research showing significant destructive impacts with larger group sizes. This will better protect all Wildernesses on the forest from harm.
- End to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which significantly alters the areas' natural conditions. When lakes are stocked, human and pack animal feces contaminate these lakes and streams.
- Close vacant grazing allotments in the Wildernesses so these areas can return to a wild condition.
- Prohibit trail construction or reconstruction in the currently trailless areas of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. This provides remote areas for wildlife as well as premier areas for solitude.

I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan with the following improvements:

- Add the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan
- Prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection, in the Recommended Wilderness areas so as to preserve their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.

Thanks for considering this input.

Donna Bing