

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/6/2019 2:07:17 PM

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Comments:

Hello,

As a multiple times visitor to the Greater Yellowstone region, I am writing to say that I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan, but I think they must be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan. Alternative D provides the most protection of critical core habitat for wildlife and roadless areas as well as creating the new wilderness.

Also, I believe that the plan should 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. The plan should also add critical wildlife crossing areas along I-15 - I-19. Such crossings have been very successful here in AZ.

The Forest Service should further reduce group size limits accordingly so as to protect all Wildernesses on the forest from harm. The plan must also address the issue of human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Further, the forest plan should put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which significantly alters the areas' natural conditions.

Vacant grazing allotments in the Wildernesses should also be closed so these areas can return to a wild condition. No 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.

So much of the West is under destruction now. Please look to the long term and help provide greater protections for the entire Yellowstone region by implementing Alternative D. Thank you.