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Comments:

Greetings!

I am a retired professional resource manager who worked for the USFS, NPS and BLM for over 35 years.

I Strongly support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan with the following improvements that more specifically address the intent of this plan:

- Add the entire 230,000 wild and pristine, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan. Science supports this action as a way to assure survival of this complex ecosystem.

- Completely prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses (as specified in the intent of the Wilderness Act), and all other concordant activities not consistent with wilderness protection and values, in all of the Recommended Wilderness areas so as to preserve their wilderness qualities and characteristics until Congress acts upon the wilderness recommendations.

- The draft plan lacks appropriate direction and guidance for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The current wilderness management plans inappropriately allows destructively large groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas, actions which have been scientifically documented to exceed acceptable impacts upon this type of protected national wild lands. Documented Research shows that impacts increase significantly when group-sizes exceed eight head of stock and 12 people. The Forest Service should specify a reduction of the maximum group size limits accordingly so as to protect all Wildernesses on the forest from destructive, long lasting impacts that are so thoroughly researched and documented, rather than increasing those impactful limits to satisfy evident non-scientific political influence.

- Eliminate the ecologically destructive process of stocking fish in naturally fish-less wilderness lakes, a process which significantly alters the areas' natural conditions and the intent of varied federal regulations

- Additionally the plan should address and propose management actions to address the issue of human and pack animal feces contamination of the various watersheds within the protected areas, including the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Please note that eliminating fish stocking processing would likely go a long way toward solving this problem, but additional measures must be specified to assure the health and safety of these watersheds.

Thanks!