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Comments:

I'm in favor of the recommendations for wilderness in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan. But I believe they need to be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan.

I think these additional points further expand on the importance for the wild Gallatin Range:

The plan should prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection, in the Recommended Wilderness areas in order to preserve their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations;

The draft plan has little direction for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The current wilderness management plans allows destructively large groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas. Research shows that impacts increase significantly when group-sizes exceed eight head of stock and 12 people. So I think the Forest Service would do well to reduce group size limits accordingly, to protect all Wildernesses on the forest from harm.

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

Finally, the plan needs to address the problem of human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Eliminating fish stocking would likely go a long way toward solving this problem, but additional measures have to be included if needed.