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Comments:

Thank you for taking comments on the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision.

While I am in support of the stewardship of the Forset Service, I would like to ask for additional considerations for this plan.

I would ask for tightening and defining the administering of the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The current wilderness management plans allows destructively large groups of horses and mules, not to mention groups of people in most areas. This will harm the environment, and the Forest Service should reduce the group numbers to at least half of what was proposed.

Related to this point above, there should be a plan in place for managing the feces of domestic animals and people in the natural areas, as this leads to additional contamination and diseases in waterways.

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.

I would also like to restrict or eliminate vacant grazing. As one of the last remaining wild areas in the country, use of land for domestic animals is perhaps the greatest contributor to habitat loss. I believe that if this practice continues, even for the noble purposes of jobs and food supply, that we are sending our wild animal species into extinction.

I would also support not building additional trails in the area, as again, the presence of humans in large numbers will lead to wild animal de-population and destruction of the peace and serenity of the Wilderness.

I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan; however, they must be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan. The following three points also 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 so as to preserve their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.