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Comments:

I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan;, but with certain improvements. Please add the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan. Also, 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 current Lee Metcalf and Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness management plans allows for too many people, horse, mules, etc in May areas. The place is getting hammered with too much usage. Instead, group sizes should not exceed 8 head of stock and 12 people.

Another issue of concern is stock animal and human feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Eliminating fish stocking would help this situation a lot. Fish stocking in naturally fishless lakes or streams with native fish populations is an ecologically damaging activity and is not in keeping with the concept of Wilderness. Other measures may be needed to protect water features.

I am also concerned about the introduction and spread of non-native and invasive plants. These can significantly degrade the natural conditions and can be extremely difficult to control. Eliminating invasive species, once introduced, can be a daunting task.

Thanks for considering my comments.