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Comments:

Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision #50185 Comment

We are guardians of the Earth and must protect our environment and the health and safety of all who live here.

I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan with the following additions:

--The final forest plan Recommended Wilderness Area must include the 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range. 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.

-- The plan must limit group size in order to protect all forest Wilderness from harm. Research shows that groups exceeding eight head of stock and 12 people significantly increase environmental impact. The draft plan has little direction for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The current wilderness management plans allow destructively large groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas.

-- The plan must stop ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes in order to prevent significant alteration of the areas' natural conditions.

-- The plan must stop contamination of lakes and streams by human and pack animal feces 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 must be included if needed.