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Comments:

We support the recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan. We do this because we care about preserving wilderness and wildlife.

In Alternative D we would like the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.

We also support the following three points for the wild Gallatin Range:

- In the Recommended Wilderness areas all motorized and mechanized uses should be restricted along with any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection. This will preserve their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.
- The draft plan does not have clear and full instructions 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. The Forest Service should reduce group size limits accordingly so as to protect all Wildernesses on the forest from harm. In addition, 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 must deal with the issue 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 must be included if needed