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Comments:

My family and I suggest Alternative D of the draft forest plan, with the suggested improvements outlined below. This will offer the best protection for the Gallatin Range and other critical wildlife habitat across the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Please include the additional points below:

- Add the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.
- 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.
- The forest plan should put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which significantly alters the areas' natural conditions.
- The plan must address 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.
- Vacant grazing allotments in the Wildernesses should be closed so these areas can return to a wild condition.
- No trail construction or reconstruction in the currently trailless areas of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. This provides remote areas for wildlife as well as premier areas for hikers who want to really get into the wilderness.
- 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.