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First name: Susan

Last name: Wald

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 10 River Rd

Address2:

City: New York

State: NY

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 10044

Country: United States

Email: sbwald@msn.com

Phone:

Comments:

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 Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.

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 current wilderness management plan allows destructively large groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas. Research shows that the impact increases 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.