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Comments:

For the Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan, I support Alternative D as the best alternative presented for selection. I do believe that the protections provided should always be the most protective for wildlife and habitat protection and conservation. I believe that Plan D must be improved by inclusion of the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acreage of the Gallatin Range for Wilderness protections and recommended Wilderness designation. This of course would prohibit all motorized usage along with all other activities not consistent with wilderness protection.

It is most unfortunate that the current management plan for the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wilderness areas allows large groups of horses, pack stock and people to travel in numbers which adversely impact the environment. To minimize impact, as research shows, these group outings should be reduced to less than eight head of stock and twelve people. There is also currently a problem with fecal material from humans and pack animals contaminating the lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau. While I disapprove of fish being stocked in naturally fishless lakes, I am not informed if this alteration of natural conditions is detrimental or not and the matter should be further investigated. I believe that elimination of fish stocking may help solve the problem, but other measures may also need to be put in the management plan. The Wild Gallatin Range deserves the best protections to ensure quality wildlife habitat and provide quality recreational opportunities while ensuring the area is not destroyed by careless or reckless usage by a continually increasing number of visitors.