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Comments:

\* The draft plan has little direction 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. The Forest Service should reduce group size limits to eight head of stock and 12 people to protect all Wildernesses on the forest from harm. Further, the forest plan should terminate 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.

\* 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 should be undertaken. This provides remote areas for wildlife as well as premier areas for solitude.

\* I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan. However, the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range should be added as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan. 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.