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Comments:

My comments on the proposed C-G Forest Plan: Your definitions of Recreational Emphasis Area and Backcountry Area are totally inadequate. How can I comment on these proposed designations when they are not really defined?

Alternative D has a lot of desirable propositions that I commend and recommend you keep in the Plan, like no landing strips; lots of Recommended Wilderness Areas; reducing domestic sheep grazing (to reduce impact on wild sheep); allowing wild Bison to roam; managing most of Hyalit-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn area as Recommended Wilderness and making current management of the Wilderness Study Area as intended by law...no motors or bikes until released. I highly recommend you follow the Gallatin Forest Partnership Agreement recommendations for the Forest Plan; these folks spent lots of hours working together to help make reasonable recommendations, representing key interests in this process...the way planning should be done. Honor their work.

Alt. D also lists Punch Bowl, Big Pryor, Bear Canyon and Lost Water Canyon additions as Recommended Wilderness in the Pryor Mtns, which I totally agree with.

In Alt. D, you recommend no pack goats allowed, which seems radical; couldn't you require that these goats be disease free to be allowed in the Forest? And it states no Stillwater Complex acres! That seems unreasonable.

Alt. D also places all of Line Cr. Plateau down to the BLM and WY border in Recommended Wilderness. Great, I commend that idea. But it does not all have to be so restricted, namely removing bicycle use off the Plateau down on the Face of the Mountain Trail and the spurs near Robinson Draw; leave those trails out of Wilderness. I find it hard to recommend that the trail on Line Cr. Plateau become a non-mechanized route due to Wilderness restrictions; I bike that route and so do friends; but I'd rather this area be preserved from extractive industries; the current Research Natural Area designation does not prevent extractive industries from getting a permit to drill or mine there; Wilderness designation would be required. And currently, I do not see where the FS (or other agencies) have created a designation that would act like Wilderness to truly preserve these types of areas while allowing bicycles (a relatively low impact recreation if kept minimal).

Alt. D also de-emphasizes road and trail maintenance! What's that about? I recommend more maintenance on existing roads and trails.

Other Recommended Wilderness expansions in the Beartooths should be drawn to not exclude existing bicycle trails, (Red Lodge Cr., and Silver Run Plateau/Ingles Cr...the existing trail on the north edge of Silver Run Plateau could be rerouted along the edge to stay just outside a new Recommended Wilderness boundary, allowing bikes to continue there).

In the main fork of Rock Creek, you show Recreational Emphasis Area in Alt. D, but no real definition of what that means. I highly recommend that this mean you will control the camping and driving to lessen the impact on the area. By things like designating all campsites and charging a fee, providing toilets and tables, keeping camping away from the creek, providing monitoring, and clearly stating that driving is on designated roads only, you will be actually managing the impact to this highly impacted area. Similarly, you should more actively manage recreation in the popular Lake Fork and West Fork of Rock Creek areas.