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Comments:

I thank the stewards of the wildlife and wilderness of the greater Yellowstone region. They have improved the chance that our great-grandchildren can thank us like we can thank the First Nations for stewarding this nation so we can be here. I ask that their guiding spirits are at the table as decisions are made for the future of these lands.

Wilderness need them at the table in this age of few people with so much money that they leave a wake of cruel machinery and concrete for their fleets of private jets, helipads, etc. who'd like another mansion near Yellowstone.

Wildlife is threatened by the growing number of guns in the hands of people who aim at wildlife and pull triggers.

Of the Revised Draft Forest Plan for our Custer Gallatin Forest, alternative D is the most protective, but it must be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan. The following three points also expand on the importance for the wild Gallatin Range.

1. 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.
2. 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. 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. Further, the forest plan should put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which significantly alters the areas' natural conditions.
3. 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.

Thank you for considering,
Carolyn Beebe