

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/3/2019 5:54:21 PM

First name: V.L.

Last name: Brandt

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 3318 Coachman's Way

Address2:

City: Durham

State:

Province/Region: NC

Zip/Postal Code: 27705

Country: United States

Email: brandtv@mac.com

Phone: 9172398153

Comments:

As I understand it, there are several key weaknesses in the current wilderness management plans.

1) They allow destructively large groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas. Studies show that adverse effects 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.

2) The forest plan fails to put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which significantly alters the areas' natural ecosystems.

3) Human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness needs to be addressed. Eliminating fish stocking would help, but additional measures must be included if needed.

4) There should be no trail construction or reconstruction in the currently trail-less areas of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. This provides remote areas for wildlife as well as areas for solitude.

5) The plan does not, but 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.

6) 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 Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.