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Comments:

I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan; however, they should be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness. In addition, 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. The Forest Service should reduce group size limits eight head of stock and 12 people in accordance with research, so as to protect Wildernesses 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. Finally, 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.