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Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan; however, I believe they must be improved by making the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan.

I also believe the plan should prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection, in the Recommended Wilderness areas in order to preserve wilderness qualities.

I am concerned that the draft plan has little direction for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The current wilderness management plans are not acceptable, as they allow destructively large groups of up to 25 head of stock and 15 people in most areas. Research shows that negative impacts increase significantly when group sizes are above eight head of stock and 12 people. The Forest Service should reduce group size limits accordingly 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.

I also am advocating that the plan address the issue of human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. The elimination of fish stocking would help significantly to solve this problem, but additional measures need to be added.

Sincerely,  
Marybeth Diss