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Comments:

FW: [Website feedback] Recommendations regarding the Gallatin Range Wilderness area

-----Original Message-----

From: admin@example.gov [mailto:admin@example.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 11:29 AM

To: FS-Webmaster <webmaster@fs.fed.us>

Subject: [Website feedback] Recommendations regarding the Gallatin Range Wilderness area

Ann Pacey (not verified) (annjpacey@gmail.com) sent a message using the contact form at <http://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/contact-us>.

Message

Preserving and strengthening wilderness is CRITICAL to addressing biodiversity and hence combating climate change and our very strong possibility now of extinction.

I strongly support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan. But they don't go far enough, they must be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan. The following three points also expand on the importance for the wild Gallatin Range.

All motorized and mechanized vehicles should be PROHIBITED, as well as any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection.

Additional guidance should be incorporated to properly administer 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 to these more conservative levels. a 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.

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.

We must take bold action while there is still time. Once these areas are degraded past a certain point, they collapse.