

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 4/23/2019 4:51:46 PM

First name: Karlene

Last name: Gunter

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 472 French Road

Address2:

City: Rochester

State: NY

Province/Region: NY

Zip/Postal Code: 14618

Country: United States

Email: K0Karlene@gmail.com

Phone: 5854730234

Comments:

I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan; however, I would like to see them improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan. In addition, the plan should prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection, in order to preserve their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.

This draft plan has little direction for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. This needs to be changed. The current wilderness management plans allow 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.

In addition, the forest plan should put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes. Eliminating fish stocking would likely go a long way toward solving the problem of human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. It would also likely decrease the size of the groups in the area which would help to limit the impact of large groups.