

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 4/26/2019 4:32:56 PM

First name: Peggy

Last name: Kocoras

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 73 South St.

Address2:

City: Granby

State:

Province/Region: MA

Zip/Postal Code: 01033

Country: United States

Email: pkocoras@clarku.edu

Phone: 4134671733

Comments:

I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan with a revision to include the entire 230,000 acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan. The plan should prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection in the Recommended Wilderness areas to preserve their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.

The draft plan has little direction for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. 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, which should be lowered to 8 head of stock and 12 people to protect the land according to data.

The forest plan should also 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.