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Comments:

The draft revised plan does not go far enough to protect Wilderness; it should include specific standards with direct enforceable language. Although I support the Recommended Wilderness in Alternative D, you should add the entire 230,000 roadless acres in the Gallatin Range to preserve vital wildlife corridors. The "Backcountry Areas" designation is weak and inadequate. These areas should prohibit uses as stated in the Wilderness Act and should not be allowed to function as a human amusement park.

In Wilderness Areas, please limit group size to 8 head of stock and 12 people. Please add a standard to Zone 1 stating that there will be no system trails. The Wilderness management plans for the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf are amended to the previous forest plan and are not guaranteed by the new plan. Please add stronger standards to the plan to protect these areas. Also add an objective to create management plans either concurrently or within two years of the final forest plan.

The plan should emphasize protection of habitat, since there is unlikely to be much habitat left with the exploding local human population. Enforceable forest-wide amendments should be included to protect key linkage areas, habitat connectivity and food security for grizzlies. Create a forest-wide standard to protect habitat connectivity for American Bison. Adopt a standard that does not allow domestic sheep grazing permits in bighorn sheep range. A standard should also close current allotments and not allow future cattle grazing in American bison range. Please make it a goal of this plan to retire grazing permits as they expire to protect and restore riparian areas.