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First name: Richard

Last name: Popchak

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 346 Getchell Street

Address2:

City: Santa Cruz

State:

Province/Region: CA

Zip/Postal Code: 95060

Country: United States

Email: rich@ventanawild.org

Phone:

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Custer Gallatin Forest Plan Revision. As an advocate for true Wilderness as defined by the 1964 Wilderness Act, I submit these comments to guide you to a revision that is truly Wilderness-centric and not beholden to uses that are inappropriate and destructive to these fine lands. There is only so much designated Wilderness in the lower 48. I encourage you to implement a plan with these guidelines for the perpetual protection of Custer Gallatin. Thank you.

- I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan; however, they must be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan. The following three points also expand on the importance for the wild Gallatin Range.

- The plan should prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection, in the Recommended Wilderness areas so as 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 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 accordingly so as 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.

- 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.