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Comments:

Dear Forest Service officials:

Please carefully consider my following comments.

\* I strongly support and urge you to adopt and work to implement the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan. However, I believe that these recommendations can and should be improved. For example, 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 relate to 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 should 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 should be included if needed.

Please follow the law, best science, and make decisions in the broad public interest. Please resist political pressures from narrow corporate or other special interests that seek short-term profits over long-term conservation and sustainable resource management.

Thank you very much for considering my comments.