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Comments:

I'm writing to support the recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft of the Forest Plan. But I am in favor of adding the whole 230,000 acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final Forest Plan. Further, to keep the Gallatin Range wild, motorized vehicles and other potentially damaging activities should be prohibited until Congress can act on the recommendations regarding it. Also, plans for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses should be specified and revised. Currently up to 25 head of horses and mules and 15 people are allowed in most areas, but research shows that more than eight head of stock and 12 people are likely to be damaging. The Forest Service should therefore reduce group size limits. Finally, the Forest Plan should prohibit fish stocking, as this changes the ecosystem in destructive ways. Not stocking would help address the human and pack-animal feces problem on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, but supplementary measures may be needed as well.