

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 4/23/2019 8:46:35 AM

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Comments:

I write in general support of the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan but with the following strong suggestions:

1) the recommendations should include the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.

2) PLEASE prohibit all motorized and mechanized machinery and vehicles, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection

3) The draft plan has little to say about administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The current wilderness management plans allows too-large groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas, but research shows that group-sizes over eight head of stock and 12 people cause exponential damage. The Forest Service should reduce group size limits accordingly and also put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which profoundly alters the areas' natural conditions.

4) Last but not least, the plan needs to address the issue of human and pack animal waste, as such feces contaminate 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.

Sincerely,  
V.L. Brandt