

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 4/23/2019 1:25:32 PM

First name: Harry and Jill

Last name: Brownfield

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 74 Acker Road

Address2:

City: Newport

State: PA

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 17074

Country: United States

Email: hbrown6905@aol.com

Phone: (717) 651-0896

Comments:

As you work to finalize the existing draft forest plan for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, we ask you to keep the following comments uppermost in your thinking:

First and foremost, we support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan; however, those recommendations must be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan. In addition, the following three points also expand on the importance for the wild Gallatin Range.

The plan must 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 allow 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.

Finally, 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 found to be needed.

We appreciate your consideration of these important improvements to Recommendation D, which we support in the development of the final forest plan.

Thank you.