

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 4/23/2019 11:52:22 AM

First name: Dr.Mary Ann and Frank

Last name: Graffagnino

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 1467 Marvin Gardens Lane

Address2:

City: Prescott

State:

Province/Region: AZ

Zip/Postal Code: 86301

Country: United States

Email: fmagraffagnino@msn.com

Phone: 5208209471

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I are writing to you to express our concern over the future of wild lands in the Custer Gallatin National Forest, a national treasure, that must be preserved.

We 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 Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.

Additionally, we support the following recommendations to be included to insure preservation of its wilderness qualities:

- 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.

Thank you for your attention to the above recommendations and following through on them.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Ann and Frank Graffagnino

1467 Marvin Gardens Lane,

Prescott, AZ 86301