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Comments:

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 (but, of course, will refuse to) reduce group size limits accordingly to protect all Wildernesses on the forest from harm. Further, the forest plan should, but won't, put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, as that significantly alters the areas' natural conditions.

The plan must, but won't, 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 probably would go a long way toward solving this problem, but additional measures must be included if needed.

Vacant grazing allotments in the Wildernesses should be closed so that these areas can return to a wild condition.

No trail construction or reconstruction should be allowed in the currently trailless areas of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. This provides remote areas for wildlife, as well as premier areas for solitude.

I 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 Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan. The following three points also expand on the importance for the wild Gallatin Range.

The plan should prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses and any other activity not consistent with wilderness protection in the Recommended Wilderness areas to preserve their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.

I assume, of course, that you have already decided to proceed with your deliberate destruction and that you will pay no attention to this request or the others like it that you will receive.