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Comments:

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 Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.

The plan should also 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 large groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas. These group sizes are too destructive and should be reduced.

Also, the forest plan should put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes. This practice significantly alters the areas' natural conditions.

The issue of human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness must be addressed. Eliminating fish stocking would likely go a long way toward solving this problem, but additional measures must be included if needed.