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Comments:

Given the dramatic increase in population for Gallatin valley as well as the increases in public use of national parks, state parks and national recreation area, it seems a wise investment to preserve as much wild and scenic country as possible. Clearly the long term value to the public for recreational use exceeds the short term use for resource extraction.

Recreational use in popular areas with a variety of different recreational approaches makes it difficult to allow public lands to address the needs of a diverse group. However, some use has less impact on others than other use, and motorized/mechanical use does impact the more serene use by hikers and backpackers. Furthermore, wilderness areas with more restricted use are important to preserve the overall ecosystem, and allow future generations to know that some land is set aside to be 'forever wild'.

With these thoughts in mind, I support Alternative C--which appears to be a reasonable compromise for addressing the interests of widely varied groups. I do think that many of the comments made by various conservation groups should be taken into consideration--particularly those of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition--with regard to wildlife protections.

Thank you for your consideration