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Comments:

Thank you for providing the opportunity for comments. I am greatly concerned about our rampant loss of true wilderness in the face of increasing stresses through climate change. I fear that with seemingly "insignificant" encroachment of exploitation for agricultural or even recreational pursuits we will weaken the potential of these areas to provide a resiliency reserve in the face of future threats and stresses. Hence I would recommend:

1. Concerning the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee-Metcalf areas: reduce access for stock and human groups to 8 (stock) and 12(humans) to reduce impacts on wildlife.
2. Stop stocking fish in these areas who do not have indigenous fish populations. This will also reduce fecal pollution through animals and humans in the area. Thank
3. Close vacant grazing allotments so these areas can return to their sustainable shapes.
4. Stop the new construction and repairs to trails in the wilderness areas to protect their wild character. I can understand the temptation to increase access to make people care for these areas, but it will change them from wilderness to a managed park and reduce biodiversity.

I support the recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan, but recommend that the whole Gallatin Range be included as Recommended Wilderness.

Thank you