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Comments:

The draft plan for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses has little direction.

The current wilderness management plans allows destructively large groups of horses and mules and people in most areas. This cannot be allowed. The Forest Service must reduce group size limits to protect all Wildernesses from harm.

Fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes must end. Fish stocking alters the natural conditions in a negative way.

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. Additional measures must also be included.

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

No trail construction or reconstruction should be permitted 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 Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.