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Comments:

Though I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan, please add the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness to the final forest plan. The following three points also expand on the importance for the wild Gallatin Range.

All motorized and mechanized uses must be prohibited, as well as all 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 groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas; that's far too many. Research shows that impacts increase significantly when group-sizes exceed eight head of stock and 12 people. The Forest Service should reduce group size limits accordingly to protect the Wildernesses of the forest. Also, the forest plan should end fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which significantly alters the areas' natural conditions, since this is ecologically destructive.

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, but additional measures must be included if needed.