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Comments:

As a 40-year resident and lover of wild Montana, I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan.

These recommendations can and must be improved by adding the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.

In addition, you should "harden" your wilderness recommendations by:

1. prohibiting any and all motorized and mechanized intrusions, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection. Your highest value should be preserving the wilderness character of these lands.

Administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses should be improved. Reduce the current wilderness group size from 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas to eight head of stock and 12 people. The forest plan should put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which is manipulative and significantly alters the areas' natural conditions.

And, how about the issue of human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness? The plan needs to solving this problem.

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

No trail construction or reconstruction in the currently trail-less areas of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. This provides remote areas for wildlife as well as premier areas for solitude.