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Comments:

My husband and I visited this area on our road trip 3 years ago. We are interested in the welfare of the land and it's wildlife. We 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 Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan.

Regarding the draft plan for the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses:

1. Forest Service should reduce group size limits accordingly so as to protect all Wildernesses from harm. Research shows that impacts increase significantly when group-sizes exceed eight head of stock and 12 people.
2. The plan must address the issue of human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau. Eliminating fish stocking would help solve this problem.
3. Vacant grazing allotments in the Wildernesses should be closed.
4. No more trail construction or reconstruction in the currently trailless areas.
5. Prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses that conflict with wilderness protection.