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First name: Nancy Jo

Last name: Kirk

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 1585 Old 41 Highway NW

Address2:

City: Kennesaw

State: GA

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 30152

Country: United States

Email: njkirk@mindspring.om

Phone: 7704220901

Comments:

I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan, which creates 39 recommended wilderness areas totaling over 711,000 acres; 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. Since research shows that wilderness impacts increase significantly when group-sizes exceed a dozen people or eight head of stock, the Forest Service should reduce group size limits accordingly so as to protect all Wildernesses in the forest from harm. Further, the forest plan should put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which significantly alters the areas' natural conditions. No trail construction or reconstruction should be undertaken in the current trailless areas of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses, because this provides remote areas for grizzly bears, gray wolves, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose, which are very sensitive to human disturbance and development, and whose population survivals are threatened. It also provides solitude for serious trekkers. Thank you for making the responsible choice to protect the precious, threatened wilderness.