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Comments:

Comment -draft plan -CGNF

Dear Reviewers/Planners,

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in the planning process. And thank you also for undertaking what has been, and will continue to be a huge, but important task.

After struggling with my decision I have come to endorse Alternative C in the draft plan. My initial inclination was to advocate for Alternative D due to its increased amount of proposed Wilderness. I feel it is vital to protect the Gallatin Range and maintain wildlife corridors and feel that increased Wilderness is the best way to do this. That said, I do respect the work done by the Gallatin Forest Partnership and am impressed that a collection of such diverse interests could work through differences to come up with a proposal. As with most compromises, no group received all that it wanted, but all worked together to achieve a final product. My feeling is that because it represents a compromise by these stakeholders Alternative C, though not perfect, has the best chance of becoming reality.

One area where I disagree with Alternative C is its lack of wilderness designation for both the Crazy and Pyror Mountains. Having backpacked and skied in the Crazies over a span of many years I feel this area in particular should be protected as a Wilderness Area.

It has come to my attention that both the Lee Metcalf and the Absoroka-Beartooth Wilderness Areas have management plans that are quite outdated. The forest plan should included updated versions that better protect these special places.

Again, thank you for this opportunity and for the work you are doing on this vital task.

John Preston
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