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Comments:

It's important to recognize that wilderness designation provides the best protection for our natural heritage.

This includes protection for wildlife, habitat for species, water quality, quiet recreation and the preservation of natural landscapes for generations to come. Any plan should include those values with an eye toward providing contiguous areas for corridors and connectivity which are so necessary for plant and animal survival.

I lived in Montana well into the last century and recognize how fortunate we were to have witnessed the creation of the Lee Metcalf and the AB Wildernesses. Where would we be today without them? Since there are no more natural areas being created, preserving what remains for species preservation (including humans) is imperative. As we experience the increasing threat of global warming watershed protection should be paramount in any decision.