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Comments:

To whom it may concern:

\* The wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan is the best option and I support it. However, the recommendations need to be improved by making all 230,000 acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final plan.

\* Alternative D does not provide great detail for managing the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The wilderness administration plan in existence now allows groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas, which is too large and will likely lead to damage being caused. Research indicates that when group-sizes exceed eight head of stock and 12 people the potential for damage increases significantly. Group size limits should be implemented by the Forest Service to protect all forest Wildernesses from harm. In addition, the plan should stop ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes. Stocking fish in these naturally fishless lakes negatively alters the areas' natural conditions.

\* Human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is an issue the plan must address. Stopping the stocking of fish would be a very good start toward addressing this issue, but additional measures must be considered as well.

\* Closing vacant grazing allotments in the Wildernesses will be important so these areas can return to a wild condition.

\* No trail construction or reconstruction should be considered or allowed in the currently trailless areas of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. Remote, trailless areas are needed as some wildlife will not fare well with a human presence on trails.

\* All motorized and mechanized uses should be banned in the plan. In addition, other activities that do not support wilderness protection in the Recommended Wilderness areas should be banned. This will be important to preserve the wilderness qualities of the areas until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.