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Comments: The plan for management of the Custer Gallatin National Forest in Montana is under review at the moment, and I would like to weigh in on the topic. Several alternative plans for future management of this national resource have been put forward. As an American citizen, taxpayer, and voter, I am hereby speaking up in favor of Alternative D. Right now the wilderness management plan allows potentially destructive groups of up to twenty-five head of stock and fifteen humans in most areas; the best wilderness research we have indicates that a much safer number would be eight head of stock and twelve people. The Forest Service needs to reduce group size limits in order to ensure that less irreparable damage is likely... speaking of which I am also strongly in favor of ending fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes. The likelihood of an invasive species taking root and other forms of destruction of local natural conditions is far too high. Fishermen and other water sportsmen love their waters as much as I do, but it would be best for everyone concerned if naturally fishless places remain so, and fishing continue elsewhere in the wildernesses under Forest Service management. The waters in question are ill equipped for the sudden nutrient burden represented by fish feeding and producing waste material, to say the very least.

I 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 Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan. Ideally, currently trailless areas of Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf wildernesses should remain so. Also, motorized transportation in the Recommended Wilderness areas should be kept to a minimum or banned entirely until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations, at which point rules should be amended in keeping with the regions' Congressionally mandated status.

Thank you.