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Comments: I support the wilderness recommendations in Alternative D of the Revised Draft Forest Plan.

However, they should be modified as follows to be truly effective:

- Add the entire 230,000 wild, roadless acres of the Gallatin Range as Recommend Wilderness in the final forest plan.
- Limit group sizes to eight head of stock and 12 people to protect all Wildernesses on the forest from harm. Research shows that impacts increase significantly when group-sizes exceed these numbers, and the current wilderness management plans allows destructively large groups of up to 25 head of stock (horses and mules) and 15 people in most areas.
- End fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes, which significantly alters the areas' natural conditions.
- Directly address human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.
- Close vacant grazing allotments in the Wildernesses so they can return to a wild condition.
- Prohibit trail construction or reconstruction in the currently trailless areas of the Absaroka Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. These remote areas are necessary for wildlife to flourish and provide otherwise unavailable opportunities for solitude.
- Prohibit all motorized and mechanized uses, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection, in the Recommended Wilderness areas. These limitations are essential to preserving their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations.