

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/6/2019 3:52:10 PM

First name: James

Last name: Beeman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It is more important than ever to protect our collective heritage of wilderness. Due to the ever expanding pace of development and destruction of wild places, we are quickly running out of space for these areas that are becoming more scarce and more important than ever. As someone who has lived in Montana and now in the nations capital, I understand how important these wild spaces are to our collective psyche and the invaluable asset that they are. Additionally, the economic benefit to these areas to Montana and the surrounding communities are greater as wild spaces than through the use of extractive industries that only last a generation but denude the land for a lifetime. The best action here is to leave it as it is, we've destroyed so much of the landscape and wild lands, it is not only a moral imperative, but an economic imperative to preserve these lands.

In general, there is great support for:

Protecting the Crazy Mountains to preserve their outstanding wilderness values and managing the area in close consultation with the Crow Nation

Protecting the following roadless areas in the Pryor Mountains as recommended Wilderness: Lost Water, Big Pryor, Punch Bowl, and Bear Canyon

Implementing the Gallatin Forest Partnership agreement

Maintaining the boundaries of the current recommended Wilderness in the Lionhead

Protecting the following roadless areas surrounding the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness as recommended Wilderness: Line Creek Plateau, Red Lodge Creek-Hellroaring Plateau, North Fork, Strawberry Creek, Chico Peak, Emigrant Peak, and Dome Mountain

Managing the Tongue River Breaks, King Mountain, and Cook Mountain in the Ashland district as non-motorized hiking-and-riding areas, and expressly prohibiting mountain bikes, since the landscape is simply not suitable for this use

Managing recommended Wilderness just like designated Wilderness, allowing only foot and horse travel in recommended Wilderness and not allowing any mechanized or motorized use