

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/24/2019 8:13:28 PM

First name: Marsha

Last name: Whitty

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 800 N. Weston Lane

Address2:

City: Austin

State: TX

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 78733

Country: United States

Email: marsha.whitty@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

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 Recommended Wilderness in the final forest plan.

The plan should prohibit all motorized and mechanical uses, and any other activities not consistent with wilderness protection in the Recommended Wilderness areas so as to preserve their wilderness qualities until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations. Please bear in mind that iconic species like grizzly bears, gray wolves, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose are very sensitive to human disturbance and development. They are in great peril.

The draft plan has little direction for administering the Absaroka-Beartooth and Lee Metcalf Wildernesses. The current wilderness management plan allows destructively large groups of horses and mules and people in most areas. The Forest Service should reduce group size limits accordingly so as to protect all Wildernesses in the forest from harm. Further, the forest plan should put an end to ecologically destructive fish stocking in naturally fishless wilderness lakes.

The plan must also address the issue of human and pack animal feces contamination of lakes and streams on the Beartooth Plateau in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Eliminating fish stocking would probably go a long way toward solving this problem, but additional measures must be included if needed.