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Comments:

I want to applaud the work done by the agencies and associations that have worked together in support of the Gallatin Forest Partnership plan. Not all interests will be satisfied by this plan but I think it meets the core ideas represented by the varied interests involved.

I am in favor of protecting as wilderness as much of the wild land currently exists. We will not have NEW wild land. We can only preserve as much as we currently have.

But I recognize that there are multiple and sometimes competing uses for wild lands, but the goal, as I see it, is to maintain the wilderness aspects to these areas.

So while I really prefer Plan D, reserving the wild aspects to most of the areas in question, I recognize that Plan C balances the competing interests best and seems the best hope for preserving as much wilderness as possible.

Finally, I see access as still a threatened value. As we go forward preserving wilderness that cannot be accessed because of private ownership surrounding the wilderness is not acceptable.

Thank you to all who are working cooperatively on this issue.

Douglas Bartholomew