

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 6/6/2019 6:05:45 PM

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Comments:

The Pryors are a wonderful small range of mountains, unique in this part of the world and badly in need of wilderness protection that Alternative D would provide, with the nuances provided by the Pryors Coalition group. (I completely support their letter.) These mountains are more like mountains of the Southwest and yet they are in Montana! With their aridity, isolated elevation, and beautiful limestone formations, one can easily see why they have had special religious significance for the Crow and whatever tribes preceded the Crow tribe in this region. Windless mornings among pillars of stone looking out over the Bighorn basin remain as still lifes etched in my mind. I very much value that stillness, that soundscape, in contrast to our noisy world. I've hiked, skied and camped in the Pryors, pulled knapweed, and have supported legal wilderness for them consistently. I am also very aware of how motorized vehicles have compromised time and again this small isolated range of mountains. The Pryors need the stewardship of legal wilderness protection if they are not to become simply a playground for mechanized challenges--hill climbs and mud holes. Alternative D, allowing the roads that it does between wild areas of protection, is a fair compromise. Please protect them.