



## **Billings and Pompeys Pillar National Monument Resource Management Plan Revision**

### **FACT SHEET: Land with Wilderness Characteristics**

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The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to maintain an inventory of lands that possess wilderness characteristics. Also, consistent with FLPMA and other applicable authorities, the BLM will consider the wilderness characteristics of BLM land when undertaking its multiple-use land use planning.

Wilderness characteristics are **not** a special designation like a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) or Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), but are among the multiple resources the BLM is responsible for managing on public lands. In order for an area to qualify as lands with wilderness characteristics, it must possess sufficient size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. In addition, it may possess supplemental values. Generally an area must meet the following criteria:

- **Size** – It must be a roadless area with over 5,000 acres of contiguous BLM lands or of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.
- **Naturalness** – The area must appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.
- **Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Type of Recreation** – Outstanding opportunities for solitude are provided by allowing a visitor the opportunity to avoid the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the area. Present visitor use of an area is not necessary in determining whether an outstanding opportunity is present.
- **Supplemental Values** – The area may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

### **Inventories for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**

The existing inventory of BLM land in the planning area was updated and evaluated to determine whether additional lands, other than the existing WSAs, have wilderness characteristics. Throughout the inventory update, the criteria for analyzing and determining the presence of wilderness characteristics remained unchanged. Areas with wilderness characteristics must possess sufficient size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. In addition, it may also possess supplemental values.

The inventory update reviewed 113,409 acres for wilderness characteristics and identified 27,292 acres as meeting the criteria for wilderness characteristics (Map 43) (also see Appendix K). The

inventory forms are available on the internet at

[http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/prog/lands\\_with\\_wilderness/billings\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/prog/lands_with_wilderness/billings_field_office.html)

The table below summarizes the areas to be managed for wilderness characteristics by alternative.

| <b>Billings and Pompeys Pillar National Monument Draft RMP/EIS<br/>Lands with Wilderness Characteristics</b>            |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Alternative A<br/>(No Action)</b>  | <b>Alternative B</b>  | <b>Alternative C</b>   | <b>Alternative D<br/>(Preferred)</b>  |
| Manage 1,925 acres outside of the Bighorn Tack-On and Pryor Mountain WSAs for their wilderness characteristics (Map 42) | <p>Manage for wilderness characteristics the following areas/acres (27,292 acres) (Map 43)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pryor Mountain Tract 1 – 2,873 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 2 – 497 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 3 – 143 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 5 – 512 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 6 – 1,074 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 7 – 327 acres</li> <li>• Burnt Timber Unit Tract 1 – 703 acres</li> <li>• Burnt Timber Unit Tract 2 – 5,375 acres</li> <li>• Weatherman Draw Unit – 11,603 acres</li> <li>• Meeteetse Unit Tract 10 – 2,149 acres</li> <li>• River islands – Size unknown</li> <li>• Bad Canyon Unit – 2,036 acres</li> </ul> | <p>Manage for wilderness characteristics the following areas/acres (3,379 acres) (Map 44)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 2 – 497 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 3 – 143 acres</li> <li>• Burnt Timber Unit Tract 1 – 703 acres</li> <li>• Bad Canyon Unit – 2,036 acres</li> </ul> <p>Do not manage for wilderness characteristics the following areas/acres (23,913 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pryor Mountain Tract 1 – 2,873 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 5 – 512 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 6 – 1,074 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 7 – 327 acres</li> <li>• Burnt Timber Unit Tract 2 – 5,375 acres</li> <li>• Weatherman Draw Unit – 11,603 acres</li> <li>• Meeteetse Unit Tract 10 – 2,149 acres</li> <li>• River islands – Size unknown</li> </ul> | <p>Manage for wilderness characteristics the following areas/acres (13,653 acres) (Map 45)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pryor Mountain Tract 1 – 2,873 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 2 – 497 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 3 – 143 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 5 – 512 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 6 – 1,074 acres</li> <li>• Pryor Mountain Unit Tract 7 – 327 acres</li> <li>• Meeteetse Unit Tract 10 – 2,149 acres</li> <li>• Burnt Timber Unit Tract 1 – 703 acres</li> <li>• Burnt Timber Unit Tract 2 – 5,375 acres</li> </ul> <p>Do not manage for wilderness characteristics the following areas/acres (13,639 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weatherman Draw Unit – 11,603 acres</li> <li>• River islands – Size unknown</li> <li>• Bad Canyon Unit – 2,036 acres</li> </ul> |