

WEST PRYOR GEOGRAPHIC AREA 6

The West Pryor Geographic Area is located 25 miles southeast of Bridger, Montana in the Pryor Mountains of the Custer National Forest. The North Pryor Travel Management Area is located to the north along the Pryor Mountain Road (Sage Creek) and the East Pryor Travel Management Area is located just to the east of the Crooked Creek Road # 2312. Access to this area is from the western and southern portions of BLM and private lands that surround the Custer National Forest.

Current Condition

Roads in this area follow ridges and interconnect with other system and non-system roads that lay above limestone canyons. These roads generally traverse open parks along the west flank of Big and Red Pryor Mountains.

Road and travelway mileages and densities are greater in the West Travel Management Area than in the East Travel Management Area. Many of the National Forest roads that connect to BLM lands receive winter and all season use at the lower elevations.

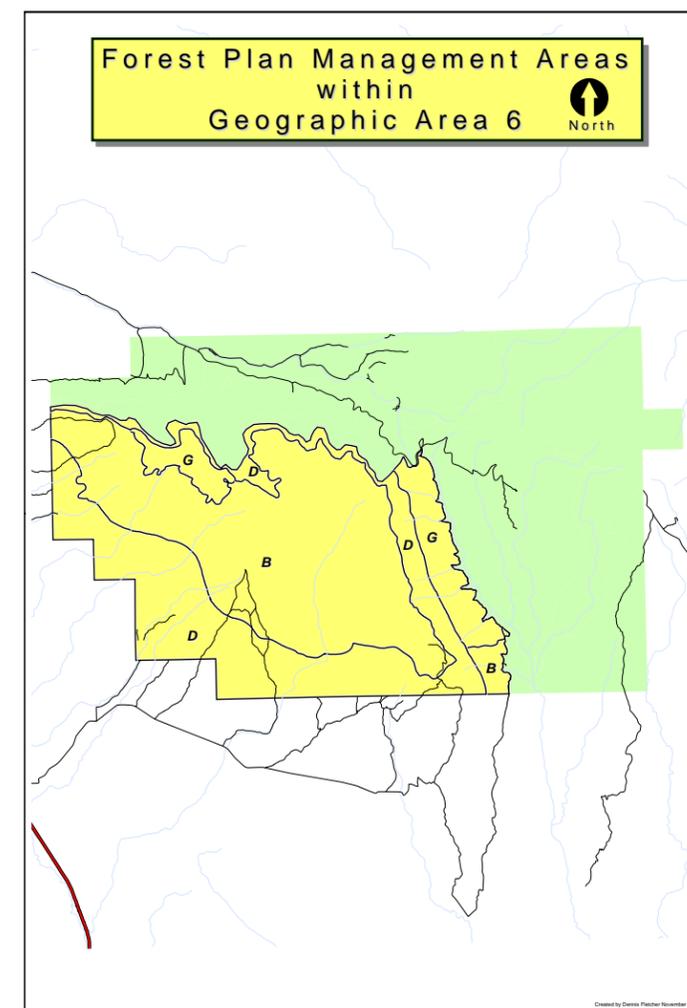
Users created roads are continuing to be developed even though the current Beartooth District Travel Plan prohibits motorized cross-country travel in this area.

Numerous cultural and heritage sites are scattered throughout this area and are directly associated with existing roads and travelways. The high level of motorized use has led to resource problems such as an increase in user-created jeep and ATV trails, soil erosion, and vegetation damage.

Current Forest Plan direction emphasizes permitted cattle grazing on portions of this area.

Forest Plan Management Area Direction

West Pryor Geographic Area 6	
Management Area	Acres within Geographic Area 6
B	19,347
D	13,502
G	3,856
Total Acres =	36,705



Desired Condition

The emphasis for this area would be to continue to provide recreation opportunities for motorized use but with greater management controls. Motorized use would occur on roads and trails designated for such use only. Undesignated roads would be closed to correct environmental problems. Seasonal restrictions for motorized vehicles on some high elevation roads would be proposed so as to prevent soil loss and road surface damage.



Travel Management Strategy

Provide opportunities for recreation use with an emphasis on managed motorized use and to protect cultural and heritage sites. The Travel Management Strategy for motorized use is Accept and for non-motorized use is Accept.

The two tables below summarize the change in miles of road and trail from the existing travel management plan.

Road		Miles in Area 6	
		Existing	Proposed
NFSR	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	52.79	23.96
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	0.11	29.35
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	25.52	12.04
	Not Needed	1.31	14.38
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	0.00	0.00
	NFSR Total	79.73	79.73
Undetermined	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	1.43	0.34
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	3.14	3.32
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	26.27	3.92
	Not Needed	0.00	21.04
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	1.16	3.38
	Undetermined Total	32.00	32.00
		111.73	111.73

Trail		Miles in Area 6	
		Existing	Proposed
NFST	Open to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Open to non-motorized Use	1.35	1.75
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike	0.00	0.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Trail Stock	0.00	0.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike & Trail Stock	0.00	0.00
	Existing Road*	0.40	0.00
	NFST Total	1.75	1.75
Undetermined	Open to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Open to non-motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike	0.00	0.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Trail Stock	0.00	0.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike & Trail Stock	0.00	0.00
	Convert from Road*	0.00	0.00
	Undetermined Total	0.00	0.00
		1.75	1.75

* Miles have been displayed in both the Road and Trail Table

The road and trail system will be managed to provide for the types of use as shown in the following tables and maps.