

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 5/24/2019 1:10:03 PM

First name: Kathleen

Last name: Ralph

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 220 N 4th St

Address2:

City: Columbus

State: MT

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 59019

Country: United States

Email: k.a.ralph@gmail.com

Phone:

Comments:

I hike and snowshoe in the Pryors and value its unique landscape: it should be preserved as wild as possible. From ice caves to spectacular views and incredible wildflowers, the Pryors never fail to delight. I urge you to select Alternative D for the final Forest Management Plan and DEIS for the Pryor Mountains. We need WILDERNESS, not backcountry areas. If we do not protect this very special place in its entirety (landscape, flora and fauna), recreation will suffer.

Designating the four Recommended Wilderness areas (Bear Canyon, Big Pryor Mountain, Punch Bowl RWA's and an enlarged Lost Water Canyon RWA) will not affect most existing motorized and bike routes. This is a moderate and balanced proposal which keeps the need to preserve the landscape (wilderness) while including other recreational uses (motorized & bike). This approach is the most reasonable and best.

The Pryor Mountains deserve Wilderness designation. This is especially important given its proximity to the largest city in Montana. We need to preserve our wild places before they are damaged and lost. These are fragile places that deserve our protection.

Please select Alternative D.