

MEYERS CREEK-BAD CANYON GEOGRAPHIC AREA 1

The Meyers Creek/Bad Canyon Geographic Area is located about nine miles northwest of Nye, Montana. Most public access is over the Stillwater County Road #142. This area of the Custer National Forest can also be accessed from the Gallatin National Forest via the Bridger Creek Road in Sweetgrass County, Montana.

Current Condition

Much of this area, especially in the eastern portion, is open range and grassland intersected by volcanic outcrops and ridges. Mixed conifers and deciduous vegetation can be found in the drainages, ridges, and north-facing slopes. Livestock grazing has occurred in this area since the turn of the century and continues to this day.

Roaded public access to this part of the National Forest is very limited and most motorized recreation traffic occurs on the Lodgepole Road and the Meyers Creek Administrative Road that terminates at the Meyers Creek-Pass Creek Trailhead west of the Meyers Creek Work Center. The Lodgepole Road is a Stillwater County Road and is best suited for four-wheel-drive and high clearance vehicles.

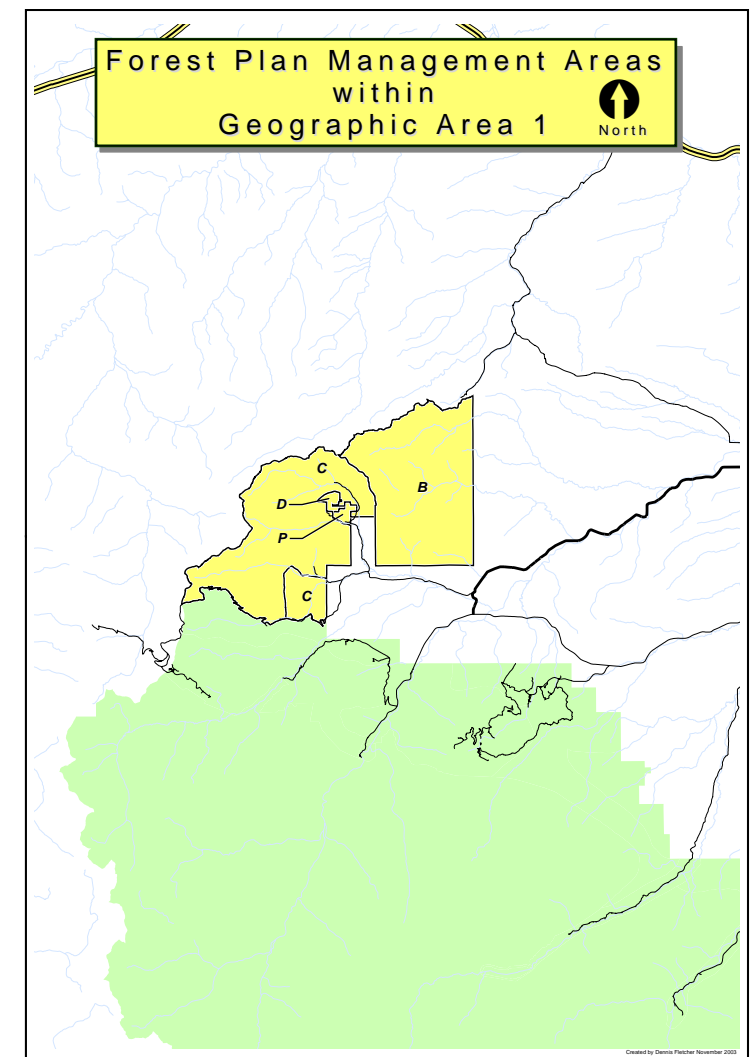
Most recreation use in this area is by foot and horse traffic over the half dozen National Forest system trails. Because of the lower elevation and weather conditions, this country opens up early in the spring for recreation trail access as compared to the Beartooth Mountains to the south. Big Game hunting and its popularity is increasing each year. Recreational livestock use on the trail system has increased substantially over the last five years and is predicted to increase in the future. However, over all recreation use of this area is fairly low and affords a measure of solitude and un-crowded opportunities.

The Lodge Pole Trail #22 and Meyers Creek Trail #27 are the only two trails open to two -wheeled motorized use in this area under the existing Beartooth Ranger District Travel Management Plan.

Current Forest Plan direction emphasizes semi-primitive dispersed recreation activities, permitted grazing activities, and the maintenance of wildlife habitat.

Forest Plan Management Area Direction

Meyers Creek –Bad Canyon Geographic Area 1	
Management Area	Acres within Geographic Area 1
B	17,457
C	2,361
D	17,501
P	321
Total Acres	37,640
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Desired Condition

The Meyers Creek/Bad Canyon Geographic Area would be managed for a range of non motorized activities. Some roads in this area would be converted to non-motorized trails.

Some example of the desired condition would be closing the Lodge Pole Trail #22 and the Meyers Creek Trail #27 to two wheeled motorized use.



Travel Management Strategy

Provide travel opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized recreation use with an emphasis on hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The Travel Management Strategy for motorized use is Prohibit 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 1	
		Existing	Proposed
NFSR	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	0.32	0.32
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	13.17	4.83
	Not Needed	0.00	0.11
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	4.21	4.21
	Convert to Trail*	0.00	8.23
	NFSR Total	17.70	17.70
Undetermined	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	6.12	0.61
	Not Needed	0.00	0.57
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	0.00	4.94
	Undetermined Total	6.12	6.12
		23.82	23.82

Trail		Miles in Area 1	
		Existing	Proposed
NFST	Open to Motorized Use	6.20	0.00
	Open to non-motorized Use	21.16	30.21
	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*	2.85	0.00
	NFST Total	30.21	30.21
Undetermined	Open to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Open to non-motorized Use	0.00	4.94
	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*	4.94	0.00
	Undetermined Total	4.94	4.94
		35.15	35.15

* 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.