

BENBOW – PICKET PIN GEOGRAPHIC AREA 2

The Benbow-Picket Pin Geographic Area encompasses the non-wilderness portion of the National Forest just to the west and south of Nye, Montana. The western boundary of this area lies along the Gallatin National Forest east of the Boulder River. It includes Picket Pin Creek and Iron Creek drainages, the West Fork and the Main Fork of the Stillwater River, Stillwater Plateau, and the Benbow area south of Dean. The Forest Service Picket Pin Road #2140 is the only roaded access to the Placer Basin country and mineral activities of the Gallatin National Forest.

Current Condition

The area is well roaded due to past and current mining activities.

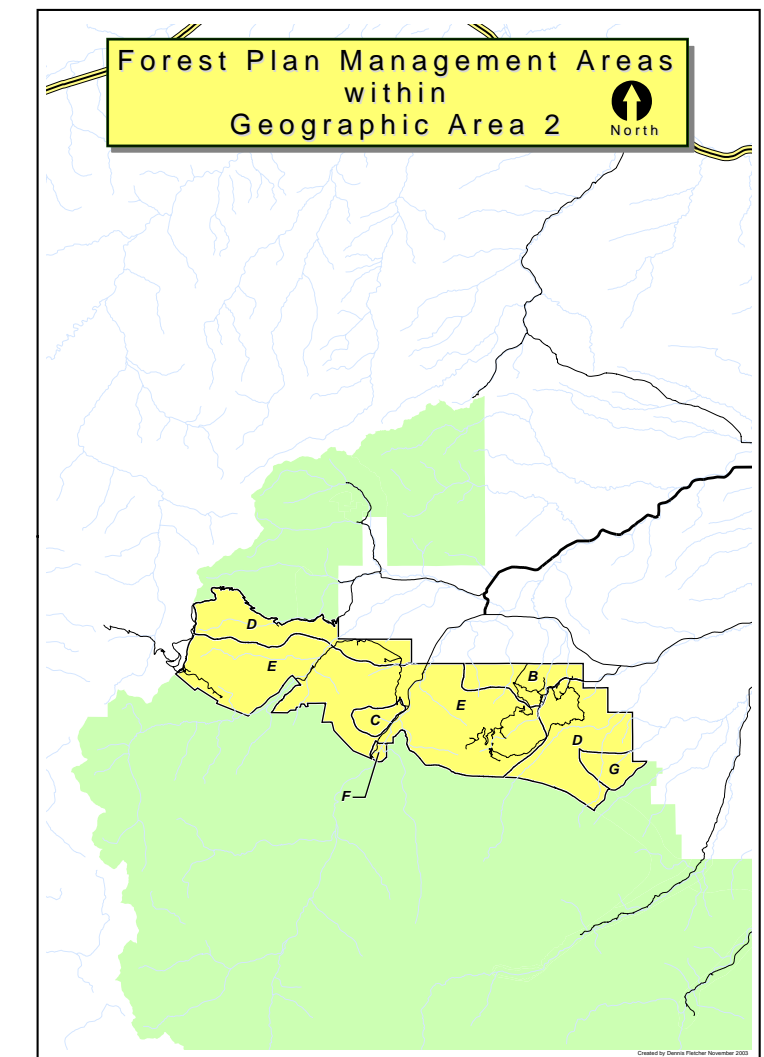
This is the home of the Stillwater Mining Company (SMC) Stillwater Mining Complex, the largest active platinum/palladium mine in North America.

This area is used by the public for motorcycle riding, ATV riding, jeep driving, fire wood gathering, dispersed camping and snowmobiling.

The current Beartooth District Travel Management Plan allows for motorized wheeled cross-country travel in this area. ATV use has grown extensively since the current travel plan was developed and approved in 1987. Numerous historic mining roads currently serve as popular ATV and jeep travel ways.

Forest Plan Management Area Direction

Benbow-Picket Pin Geographic Area 2	
Management Area	Acres within Geographic Area 2
B	3,459
C	1,159
D	15,385
E	27,887
F	282
G	1,678
Total Acres =	49,850



Desired Condition

This Geographic Area would continue to provide a variety and mix of motorized recreation opportunities. Region 1 Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Decision (January 2001 Record Of Decision) bans cross-country wheeled motorized travel, motorized vehicle use will be restricted to designated routes. This would be a change in how this area is currently managed. This Proposed Action would designate ATV only trails. Mining activities would continue in this area, and the future potential for new roads or the reconstruction of roads for mineral access and use are anticipated.



Travel Management Strategies

Provide opportunities for recreation use with an emphasis on managed motorized use and to prevent non-system/unclassified motorized vehicle access in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area. 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 2	
		Existing	Proposed
NFSR	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	53.58	46.52
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	1.50	1.50
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	16.36	19.81
	Not Needed	0.17	2.91
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	0.00	0.87
	NFSR Total	71.61	71.61
Undetermined	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	18.70	8.50
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	0.00	0.10
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	4.24	3.83
	Not Needed	0.00	5.46
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	0.00	5.05
	Undetermined Total	22.94	22.94
		94.55	94.55

Trail		Miles in Area 2	
		Existing	Proposed
NFST	Open to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Open to non-motorized Use	7.81	7.81
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike	9.94	9.94
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Trail Stock	0.00	0.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike & Trail Stock	0.77	0.77
	Existing Road*	0.00	0.00
	NFST Total	18.52	18.52
Undetermined	Open to Motorized Use	0.00	4.33
	Open to non-motorized Use	0.00	0.72
	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*	5.05	0.00
	Undetermined Total	5.05	5.05
		23.57	23.57

* 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.