

### BEARTOOTH FRONT GEOGRAPHIC AREA 3

The Beartooth Front Geographic Area is located along the fringe of the Absaroka/Beartooth Wilderness to the north and southwest of Red Lodge, Montana.

#### Current Condition

This area is considered the transition zone where the “peaks meet the prairie”.

Most of the Custer National Forest acreage in this area is inaccessible to the public due to the lack of roads, trails, and legal public access. However, this area is bisected by seven major drainages; Fishtail Creek, West Rosebud Creek, East Rosebud Creek, Red Lodge Creek, West Fork of Rock Creek, Lake Fork Creek, and the Main Fork of Rock Creek. All of these drainages have a Forest Service Maintenance Level 3 or 4 Road that follows the drainage to trailhead parking facilities near the Wilderness Boundary. Many developed recreation sites such as campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, organizational camps, and trails have been developed for public recreation use.

Extensive visitor use is experienced during the summer months and crowding of facilities is becoming much more common on key holidays and weekends.

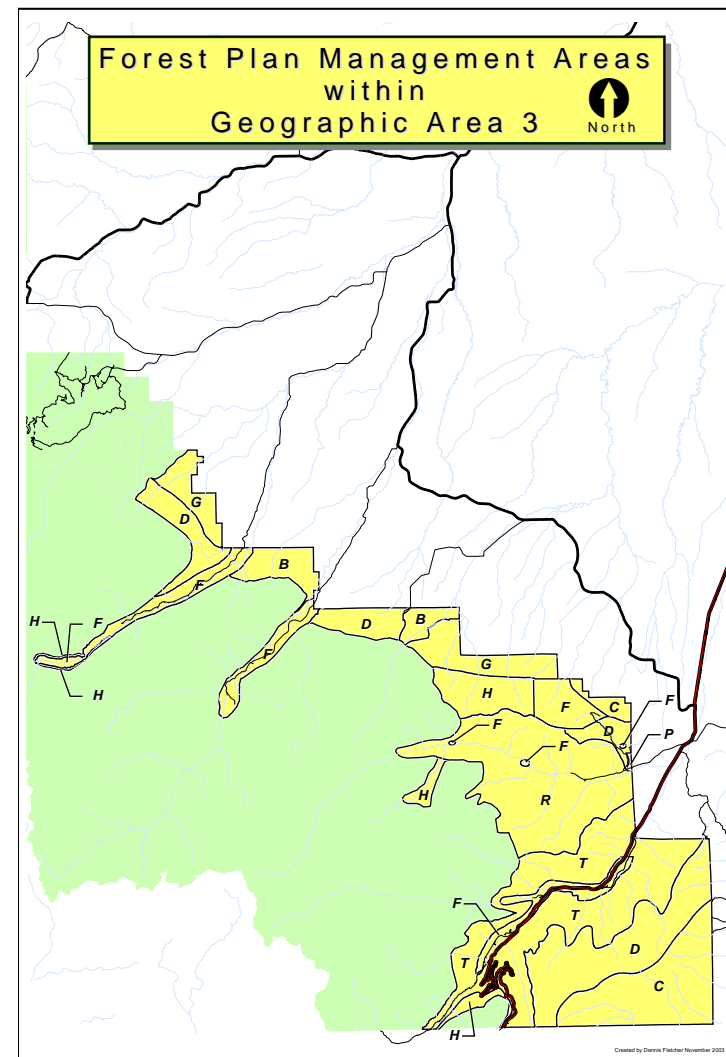
Due to the proximity to the Billings Area, the resort community of Red Lodge, and Yellowstone National Park, pleasure driving in these drainages is very popular.

In the Main Fork of Rock Creek along the Glacier Lake Road, dispersed camping by the public has exceeded the physical carrying capacity of the drainage. This condition has created resource damage due to the proliferation of user created campsites and road development.

The Beartooth All American Road on its way to Yellowstone National Park traverses through this part of the Beartooth District.

### Forest Plan Management Area Direction

Beartooth Front Geographic Area 3	
Management Area	Acres within Geographic Area 3
B	4,136
C	11,484
D	19,094
F	11,279
G	6,789
H	5,832
P	74
R	19,116
T	20,937
Total Acres =	98,741



### Desired Condition

This Travel Management Area would continue to provide a wide range of recreation opportunities to National Forest visitors where public access exists. Additional developed recreation facilities are planned in order to provide more public camping opportunities where feasible. Also, control and restriction of user created roads and inappropriate dispersed campsites are planned.

Some examples of the desired condition are as follows: Seasonal restrictions on the West Fork of Rock Creek and the Silver Run Road during the winter season would remain the same. Snowmobiling and over-the-snow activities would continue as currently authorized. The Parkside National Recreation Trail would only be open to non-motorized use. All roads spurs that leave the Red Lodge Creek Road Loop #2141 will be closed to motorized traffic except for roads #21415 Burnt Mountain Road and #21416 Burnt Mountain Spur Road.



### Travel Management Strategy

Continue to provide a wide range of recreational activities for summer and winter with an emphasis on increasing the developed recreation site capacity, providing passenger vehicle access to recreation sites, and intensifying management of dispersed recreation sites and activities. 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 3	
		Existing	Proposed
NFSR	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	40.20	26.38
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	20.47	34.58
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	16.15	7.06
	Not Needed	0.00	2.50
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	3.29
	Convert to Trail*	0.32	3.33
	<b>NFSR Total</b>	<b>77.14</b>	<b>77.14</b>
Undetermined	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	2.14	2.20
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	0.95	1.46
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	24.62	8.88
	Not Needed	0.00	15.17
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	1.76	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	1.25	3.01
	<b>Undetermined Total</b>	<b>30.72</b>	<b>30.72</b>
		107.86	107.86

Trail		Miles in Area 3	
		Existing	Proposed
NFST	Open to Motorized Use	2.16	0.00
	Open to non-motorized Use	53.28	55.44
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike	7.36	7.36
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Trail Stock	0.00	6.27
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike & Trail Stock	8.18	1.91
	Existing Road*	0.00	0.00
	<b>NFST Total</b>	<b>70.98</b>	<b>70.98</b>
Undetermined	Open to Motorized Use	0.00	3.01
	Open to non-motorized Use	1.76	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*	1.25	0.00
	<b>Undetermined Total</b>	<b>3.01</b>	<b>3.01</b>
		73.99	73.99

\* 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.