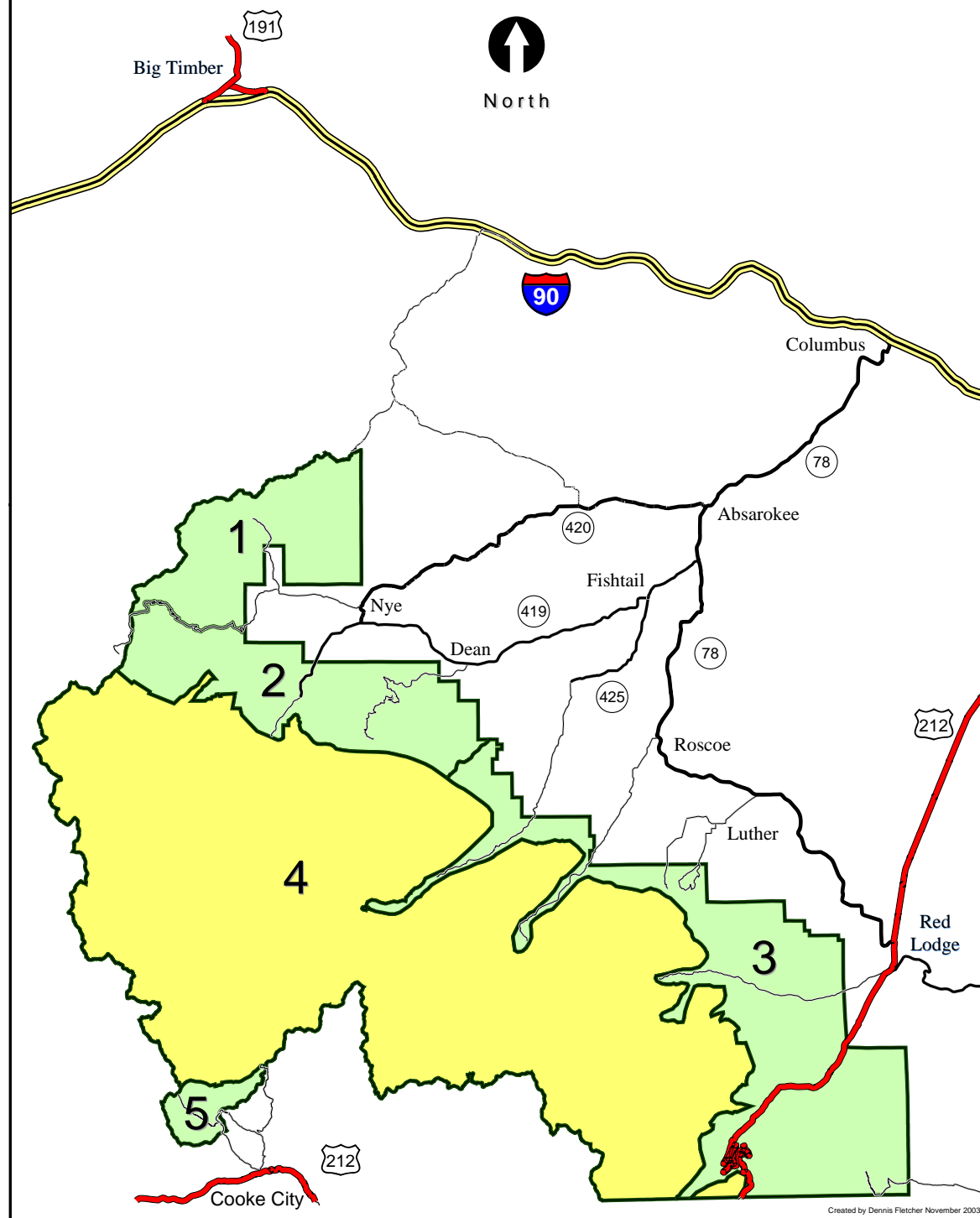


## Absaroka/Beartooth Wilderness Geographic Area 4



## ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS GEOGRAPHIC AREA 4

This geographic area is located in the Beartooth Mountain Range within the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area. The Wilderness encompasses nearly a million acres spanning three National Forests and five Ranger Districts. This geographic area includes the Custer National Forest, Beartooth Ranger District portion of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness that starts just west of Red Lodge, Montana and ends at the eastern boundary of the Gallatin National Forest.

### Current Condition

Overall the A-B Wilderness receives light levels of recreation use. However, there are some destination points on the east side where visitor use is heavier. This includes the Stillwater River drainage, West Rosebud Trail/Granite Peak climbing access, the East Rosebud Trail, West Fork of Rock Creek Trail Loop, and the Lake Plateau Region.

There is an expansive trail system that provides opportunities for hiking, backpacking, backcountry skiing, and pack and saddle stock use. Ice climbing and mountaineering are also popular activities in many locations throughout the range.

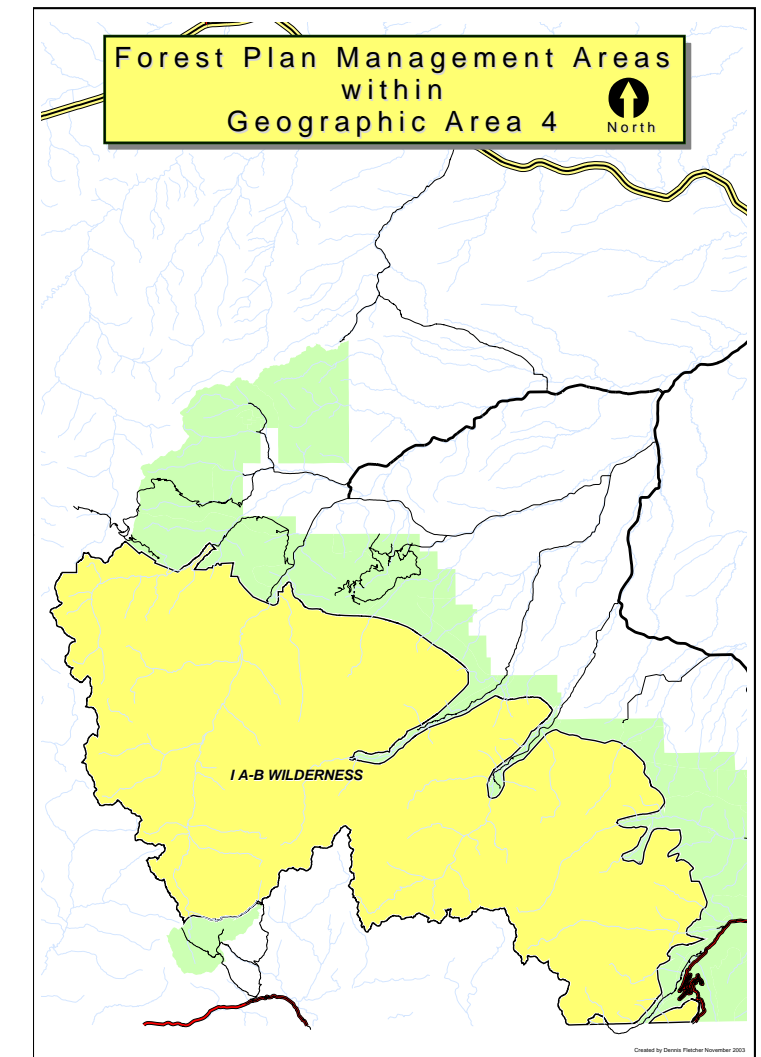
There are areas of sensitive soils that are susceptible to damage, primarily due to improper recreational livestock handling and use.

The southwestern half of the area is within the grizzly bear recovery zone.

Current Forest Plan direction is contained in an Appendix to the Custer and Gallatin Forest Plans. It directs us to use the least impactful or obtrusive trail maintenance techniques appropriate for the level of use on a particular trail.

## Forest Plan Management Area Direction

Absaroka/Beartooth Wilderness Geographic Area 4	
Management Area	Acres within Geographic Area 4
I	332,490
Total Acres =	332,490



## Desired Condition

This Travel Management Area would be managed to maintain or improve wilderness character and apparent naturalness. Trails would provide opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and trail stock use. No new routes are desired or planned in areas currently devoid of trails. On heavily used trails users will continue to see more developed features such as bridges, fords, and drainage control devices to minimize erosion of trail tread, soil erosion, and other resource damage. Other trails will be maintained to standards consistent with providing for public safety but at minimal environmental disturbance. Closing trails to overnight trail stock use will be implemented for Wilderness values.

Some examples of changes include: the Lake Fork trail segment to Sundance Pass would be closed to overnight trail stock use. Day use trail stock would continue to be allowed on this popular trail. The segment of user created trail beyond Pinchot Lake heading towards the Flood Creek drainage would be closed to all trail stock use. From the junction of the East Rosebud Camp Senia Trail #13 to Crow Lake would be closed to all overnight trail stock use.



## Travel Management Strategy

Provide travel opportunities for primitive non-motorized recreation use with an emphasis on hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, skiing, and trail stock use. 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 4	
		Existing	Proposed
NFSR	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Not Needed	0.00	0.00
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	0.00	0.00
	<b>NFSR Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Undetermined	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Not Needed	0.00	0.00
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	0.00	0.00
	<b>Undetermined Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
		0.00	0.00

Trail		Miles in Area 4	
		Existing	Proposed
NFST	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	146.77	129.84
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Trail Stock	0.00	0.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike & Trail Stock	12.83	29.76
	Existing Road*	0.00	0.00
	<b>NFST Total</b>	<b>159.60</b>	<b>159.60</b>
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
	<b>Undetermined Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
		159.60	159.60

\* 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.