

EAST PRYOR GEOGRAPHIC AREA 8

The East Pryor Geographic Area is located 35 miles southeast of Bridger, Montana in the Pryor Mountains of the Custer National forest. The Crow Indian Reservation on the north, the BLM Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range to the east and south, and the BLM Gyp Springs area to the south surround this area. The division between this Travel Management Area and the West Pryor Travel Management is Crooked Creek. The ridge that runs northeast from Crooked Creek above Punchbowl Creek is the division line between the North Pryor and the East Pryor Area. Access to this area from the west is via Carbon County Pryor Mountain Road #20. Other points of public access from Wyoming are through Gyp Springs, Crooked Creek, Burnt Timber Ridge and the BLM Wild Horse Road #1019.

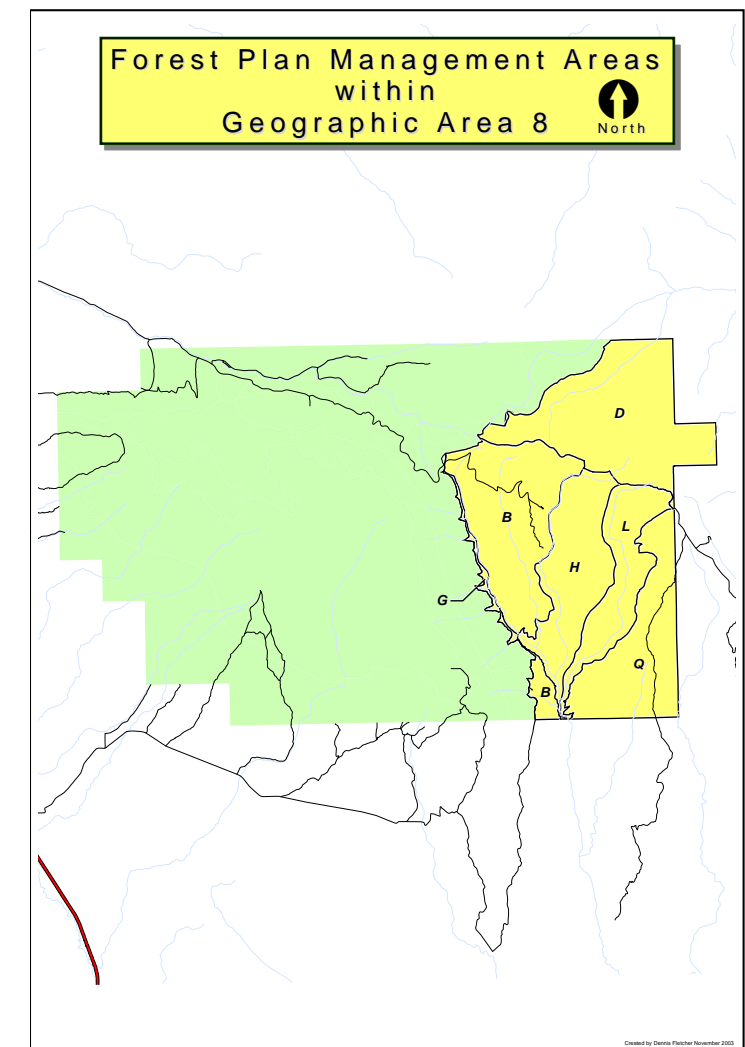
Current Condition

The north end of this area is open, where high elevation parks prevail and are interdispersed with timbered ridges. Lost Water Canyon, a Forest Service recommended wilderness area lies within this Geographic Area and encompasses 5,812 acres. This area is virtually unaltered by man's activity and features a deep limestone canyon with limited access due to steep canyon walls. The Lost Water Research Natural Area (RNA) falls within this Geographic Area as well.

Most recreational use and access in this area is by motor vehicle. Driving for pleasure on Forest Service and BLM roads is popular. ATV and jeep use is centered on the Forest Service Burnt Timber Ridge Road #2849 which connects with the BLM Wild Horse Road creating a challenging high clearance motorized loop route on public lands. Wild Horse viewing is becoming extremely popular with the public. The use of the Big Ice Cave Picnic area and associated Nature Trail has always been a popular recreation activity. Some camping, seasonal hunting and limited hiking are popular. Current Forest Plan direction emphasizes permitted cattle and wild horse grazing on a small portion of this area.

Forest Plan Management Area Direction

East Pryor Geographic Area 8	
Management Area	Acres within Geographic Area 8
B	5,839
D	6,760
G	263
H	3,994
L	2,852
Q	4,301
Total Acres =	24,009



Desired Condition

This Travel Management Area would continue to provide a wide range of recreation opportunities. All travel routes would be designated and no cross-country motor vehicle travel would be allowed. Seasonal restrictions and closures for motorized vehicles on some high elevation roads are proposed to prevent soil loss and road surface damage.



Travel Management Strategy

Provide travel and opportunities for roaded natural and semi-primitive motorized recreation use with emphasis on designated travel routes. Continue to manage the Lost Water Canyon a Forest Service recommended Wilderness Area to retain the wilderness characteristics for future potential Wilderness classification and continue to manage the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range in providing access for manager needs. 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 8	
		Existing	Proposed
NFSR	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	12.39	5.61
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	0.00	4.25
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	12.23	4.00
	Not Needed	0.50	11.26
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	0.00	0.00
	NFSR Total	25.12	25.12
Undetermined	No Restrictions on Motorized Use	0.00	0.14
	Seasonally Restricted to Motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Restricted Yearlong to Motorized Use	0.30	0.00
	Not Needed	0.00	0.16
	Dual Road/Trail Designation*	0.00	0.00
	Convert to Trail*	0.00	0.00
	Undetermined Total	0.30	0.30
		25.42	25.42

Trail		Miles in Area 8	
		Existing	Proposed
NFST	Open to Motorized Use	12.39	5.61
	Open to non-motorized Use	0.00	4.25
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike	12.23	4.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Trail Stock	0.50	11.26
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike & Trail Stock	0.00	0.00
	Existing Road*	0.00	0.00
	NFST Total	25.12	25.12
Undetermined	Open to Motorized Use	0.00	0.14
	Open to non-motorized Use	0.00	0.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike	0.30	0.00
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Trail Stock	0.00	0.16
	Non-motorized Use with Restrictions on Mountain Bike & Trail Stock	0.00	0.00
	Convert from Road*	0.00	0.00
	Undetermined Total	0.30	0.30
		25.42	25.42

* 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.