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First name: Terry

Last name: Call

Organization:

Title:

Official Representative/Member Indicator:

Address1: 27 Mountain View Drive

Address2:

City: Cody

State: WY

Province/Region:

Zip/Postal Code: 82414

Country: United States

Email: tcall@wyoming.com

Phone: (307)587-8064

Comments:

I've been visiting the Pryor Mountains consistently since 1993 and been witness to significant change in use. It used to be the case that it was rare to see anyone else even on the roads, especially Crooked Creek road above the cattle guard. I feel that it is self-evident that with increasing use comes increasing abuse. Increased abuse calls for greater protection.

One clear effect of increased usage that I see is invasive weeds along the roadside and in burned out areas. Some are choking side canyons to the point where they are almost impossible to navigate where they were once navigable.

I also see single and double-track wheel damage off road more than I used to.

I feel that wilderness protection will elevate the level of value and respect for the Pryors, along with education, with the hope being that there'd be less abuse.

Also, with the protection that wilderness designation offers, I hope that there will be more acknowledgement of the effect of invasive plant species, both along the roads and in remote canyons. I have seen invasive species in canyon bottoms, especially where there is fire damage.

Our public lands are one of our greatest treasures and, with the increasing use it makes sense to step up our level of protection. We are protecting the land for future generations, as well, of course. Let's please err on the side of caution.