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Custer NF Planners:

Once Wilderness is gone, it is gone forever. This is why I believe your draft forest plan must preserve ALL of the wilderness qualities in the areas proposed for wilderness. Beyond broad generalities it is important that:

1. Motorized travel and mechanized recreation transport-mountain bikes-must be prohibited. These have no place in wilderness and to permit them in a study areas will only degrade future wilderness values.

2. Protect existing recommended wilderness surrounding the Absaroka Beartooths and include Dome Mountain, Chico Peak, Emigrant Peak, West Woodbine, East Rosebud to Stillwater and Red Lodge Creek.

3. Protect the existing recommended Wilderness in the ionhead.

4. Protect the Pryor as recommended Wilderness, especially Lost Water, Big Pryor, Punch Bowl, and Bear Canyon.

5. Finally, protect the Bridges/Bangtail/Crazy Mountains as wildlife protection corridors.

At age 73 I know that I'll never be able to visit all these places but it is important that they be preserved so that my children and perhaps grandchildren can know the grandeur, solitude, and wildness that only our last remnants of wildlands can provide.