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Comments:

My wife and I tend to be Point A to Point B hikers. Heads down, backpacks on, sloughing it up ridgelines and down through gulches. We power through, taking time for rest breaks and views but otherwise wanting to make it to the campsite to unpack our stuff.

However, it was during my first time in the AB Wilderness, particularly on The Beaten Path leaving from the East Rosebud Trailhead, that A to B wasn't happening. I couldn't stop stopping along the way, taking in the jagged peaks, running water, and spectacular alpine lakes that greeted me around every turn on The Beaten Path. It was honestly tough for my wife and I to move from point A to B. We stopped so many times on that hike that I don't think we ever made it to the mileage goal we'd planned for that hike.

The Absaroka Beartooths are, hands down, one of my favorite places in MT and I hope that you consider their wild aspect as you go about planning recommendations in their area. We need places like this in MT, places that aren't the Disney World's of Yellowstone and Glacier but rather wild, rugged, and sometimes dangerous, places that allow people to test their mettle, courage, patience, and love of the outdoors. Places like the AB, and even the Crazies, can be beacons not only for MT locals but for the 12.5 million people who visit our state every year. Get them out of the National Parks and into other wild areas like recommended wilderness, areas free from mechanized use that force you to rely on your own two feet or the four of your horse.

Please protect areas like the Crazies, AB, and Pryors. They're one of the few wild places left in a country of rapidly dwindling wilderness.