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The Pryors Coalition Vision for the Pryor Mountains

(8/11/2016)

Preamble:

The Pryor Mountains are an irreplaceable ecological, geological, cultural and spiritual landscape owned and managed by the American public and the Crow Tribe. The land is in the slow process of healing from damage by ill-considered past use. The fragile area is threatened by factors including growing unconstrained human use, invasive species, fractured administration and climate change.

The Pryors Coalition encourages managing agencies to embrace the concept of a geographically defined Pryors unit managed under a unified vision, with policies seamless across agency boundaries, and coordinated with the Crow Tribe.

Pryors Coalition Mission:

To conserve, restore and respect the natural and cultural assets of this spectacular landscape, and to pass the Pryors on, undamaged, as a legacy for future generations.

To provide public opportunities for scientific research, educational activities and diverse recreation within the limits the landscape can sustain without damage to natural and cultural assets.

Desired Future Conditions:

For decades into the future:

The ecological integrity of the Pryors will be restored and maintained with all the Pryors' unique biodiversity. This includes the wide diversity of ecological zones, and the biodiversity within each zone.

Cultural (ethnographic) landscapes will be preserved in suitable condition for continued and appropriately enhanced contemporary use by Native Americans and others. This includes preservation of sensitive archeological and historical sites.

Within carrying capacity of the landscape, opportunities will be provided for diverse public activity including scientific education and research; bird, wildflower and other wildlife watching; photography, scenic touring, hunting, hiking, equestrian use, camping and enjoying solitude.

Designated Wilderness and other wild, undeveloped and motor-free areas will provide for secure wildlife habitat, protection of native flora, quiet recreation, restoration of damaged lands, and solitude. A balance of motorized and non-motorized travel routes will provide needed public access for sometimes conflicting public activities and interests in a manner consistent with the protection of the special resources that make the Pryors unique.

The sustainability of the cultural and natural resources will be the overriding consideration in all management decisions and actions. Developments, including campgrounds and motorized and non-motorized travel routes, will be limited to what can be maintained, monitored and supervised by available management agency staff and budgets.