



Letter: Balance, not elimination of vehicles in Pryors

Posted: Wednesday, November 14, 2007 11:00 pm

As a member of the Pryors Coalition, I am not interested in eliminating ATVs from the Pryors. However, I do want a balance. I personally prefer to escape the noisy world when I hike in the Pryors. I can better enjoy the grandeur, wildlife, fossils and spiritual setting in the absence of the chaos and noise of everyday life. However, it is appropriate that certain areas of the Pryors be open to ATVs. The unfortunate headline "Balance in Pryors means fewer ATVs" (Nov. 7 Voice of the Reader) misrepresents both the Pryors Coalition and the letter writer. (Yes, I asked her.)

The Pryors Coalition proposes limiting not the number of ATVs but the area of the Pryors impacted by motorized routes to half of the Pryors, according to Custer National Forest's calculations. The other half we want to preserve for peaceful hiking, horseback riding and other quiet activities and wildlife.

Custer National Forest, and Brett French, characterize the coalition's moderate and balanced proposal as "the nonmotorized alternative" (Nov. 7 Gazette). This is absurd for a plan that motorizes over half of the Pryors. The Forest did not even consider a nonmotorized alternative.

Get the facts at www.pryormountains.org, and tell Custer National Forest - before Monday - that you want opportunities for all who enjoy the Pryors. Endorse the Pryors Coalition's Conservation Proposal.

Cristi Hunnes

Billings