



Letter: Coalition exaggerates damage ATVs cause

Posted: Saturday, November 17, 2007 11:00 pm

Please report a balanced analysis of motorized use in the Pryor and Beartooth Mountains. Please expose the fraudulent information on the Pryors Coalition Web site. Please investigate the incomplete/incorrect information in the Custer Forest DEIS.

The pictures of vehicle abuse on the Pryors Coalition Web site purposefully only show damage in three areas of the 40,000-plus acre Pryor Mountains during the March and April snowmelt. They call the damage "scars" and impute the behavior to all motorized users. They do not show the same locations in the late summer or fall because the so-called "scars" are no longer discernable. The Forest Service knows that more than 90 percent of motorized users stay on designated trails and respect the environment. Why not expose this sham?

In the DEIS, the Forest Service ignores dozens of GPS and legally used trails because they did not appear in the 1987 mapping. Then, they suggest that Alternative A is an increase in trails when it significantly reduces motorized trails.

The Gazette prints articles and letters that lead readers to believe that the Pryors are one giant ATV/Jeep park overrun with thousands of rogue users who desecrate the environment. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our family frequents the Pryors and Beartooths regularly by Jeep. On a recent Saturday, during the entire day we saw a total of six ATVs in the Pryors. We saw no non-motorized users and no cars or trailers at trail heads to indicate any non-motorized use.

Anthony Miller

Billings