



Letter: Pryor Mountains good for more than hiking

Posted: Saturday, December 1, 2007 11:00 pm

In recent days, numerous letters have been "written" by members of an opposition group using canned statements and embellishment in an effort to establish their point of view as truth. However, I feel that in the grand scheme of things, these folks are doing their effort a greater disservice by spouting off one another's words as their own and trying to sway public opinion in their favor in this way.

One of the arguments used is that nearly half of all activities in the Custer National Forest are hiking activities. What they fail to acknowledge is that portals in and around the Red Lodge area leading into the Beartooth-Absaroka Wilderness are the most heavily used in the region, which includes Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. This area is inaccessible to motorized vehicles.

An incredibly small percentage of hikers enjoy the Pryors using feet as a mode of travel, but they want you to believe that this mountain range is as vital to the future of this activity as the wilderness area to the West. Everything has its place, but the place known as the Pryor Mountains is a place that belongs to everybody, utilizing whatever transportation method they choose to employ ... on the trail.

Alternative B strikes a balance that we in the OHV community see as reasonable. This reality is unacceptable to the opposition, as they would rather see everything become wilderness, but they will not admit it. Please voice your support for equal access to all.

Brian Casteel

Billings