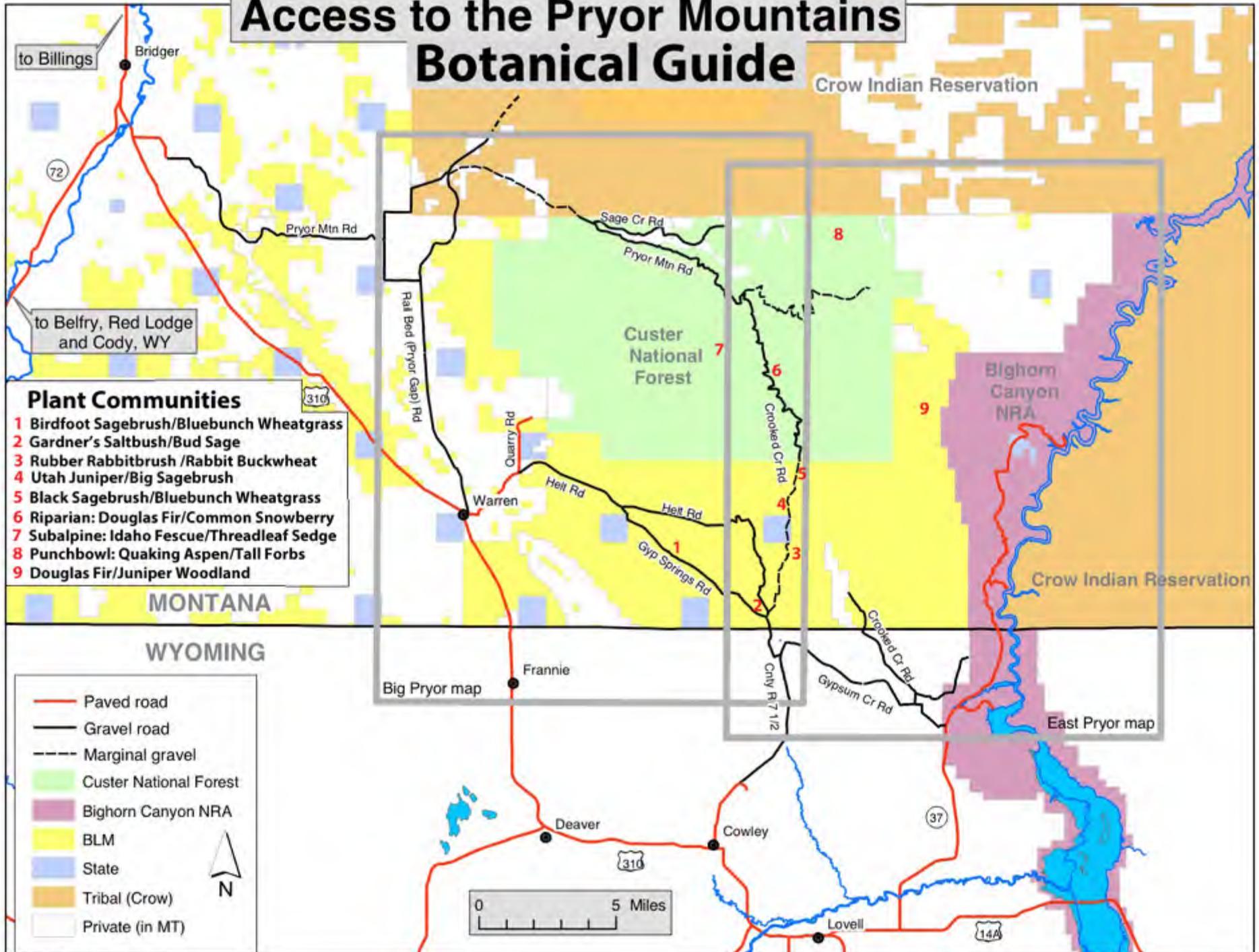


# Access to the Pryor Mountains Botanical Guide



to Billings

to Belfry, Red Lodge and Cody, WY

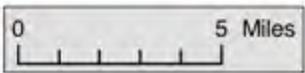
- Plant Communities**
- 1 Birdfoot Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass
  - 2 Gardner's Saltbush/Bud Sage
  - 3 Rubber Rabbitbrush /Rabbit Buckwheat
  - 4 Utah Juniper/Big Sagebrush
  - 5 Black Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass
  - 6 Riparian: Douglas Fir/Common Snowberry
  - 7 Subalpine: Idaho Fescue/Threadleaf Sedge
  - 8 Punchbowl: Quaking Aspen/Tall Forbs
  - 9 Douglas Fir/Juniper Woodland

MONTANA

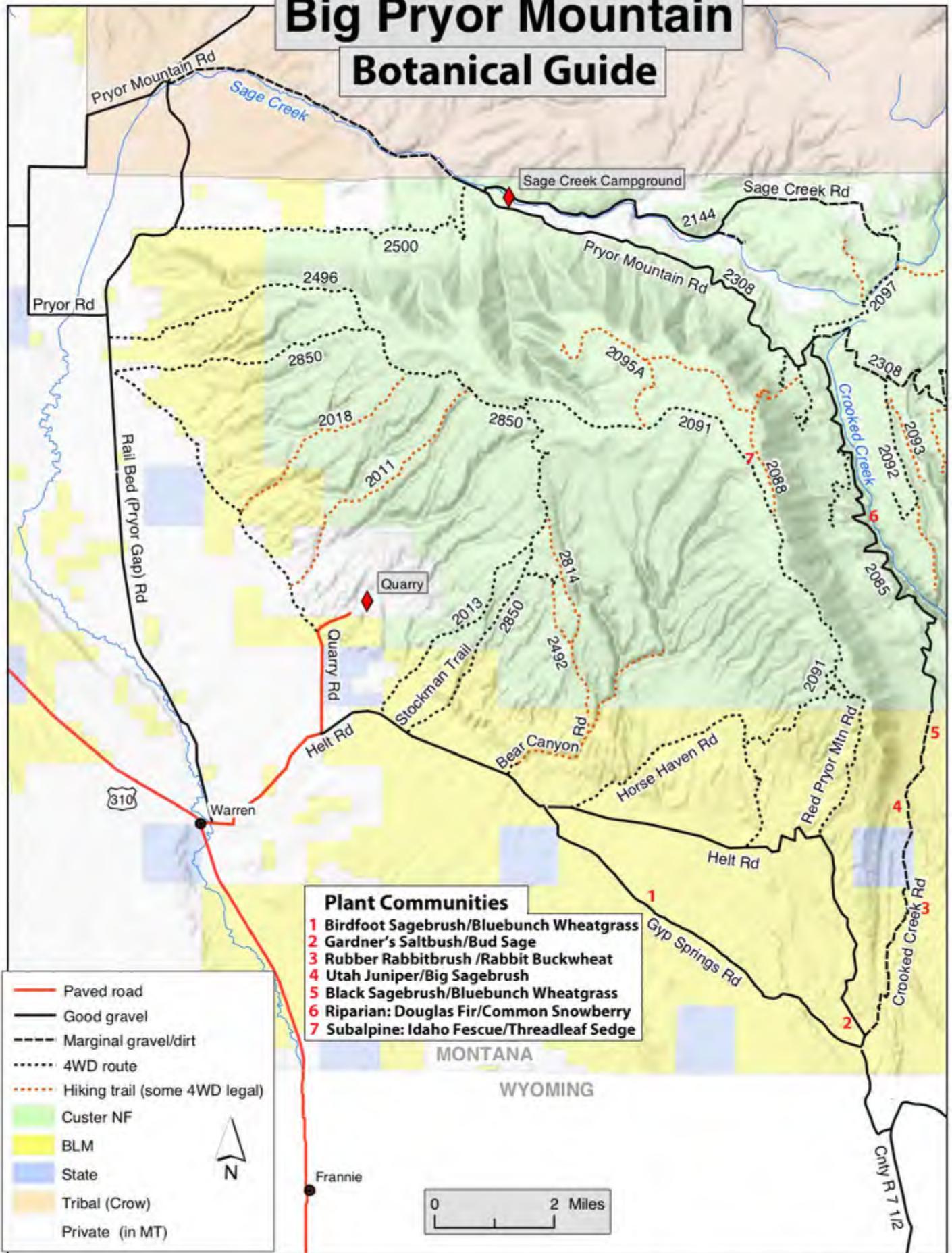
WYOMING

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- - - Marginal gravel
- Custer National Forest
- Bighorn Canyon NRA
- BLM
- State
- Tribal (Crow)
- Private (in MT)

N



# Big Pryor Mountain Botanical Guide





## Notes: Pryor Mountain Map Set

**Good Gravel Roads:** These routes are generally suitable for highway vehicles except when snowy. In a few places these roads are a bit rocky and rough. Some sections are more dirt than gravel and can be very slick when wet.

**Marginal Gravel/Dirt Roads:** These routes may be suitable for many highway vehicles if driven slowly and carefully, but only when dry and snow free. Higher clearance vehicles are preferable. Some places are quite rough and rocky. When wet some sections can be completely impassable even with 4WD.

**4WD Routes:** These routes should not be attempted without a high clearance 4WD vehicle. We believe the roads shown on these Pryors Coalition maps provide an abundance of motorized access to the Pryors. There are some additional motor vehicle legal routes shown on the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) available from Custer National Forest. Anyone driving a 4WD in the Pryors should have an MVUM. There are seasonal restrictions on some of these routes.

**Hiking Trails (some 4WD legal):** Unfortunately there are very few trails in the Pryors designated only for non-motorized use. Some of the trails shown (those with numbers) are legal for motorized use (4WD and ATV). Some of these routes are also suitable for equestrian and mountain bike use. We encourage motorized users to use the 4WD routes shown on these maps and leave the trails shown for non-motorized users. However, if you encounter legal motor vehicles on these routes please be courteous. If you observe illegal motorized use, please report the violations to BLM and Custer National Forest with as much detail as possible (when, where, license plate number, description....).

The following hiking routes shown are NOT legal for motorized use: Cave Ridge (the loop south of Big Ice Cave), the trail from Pryor Mountain Rd up to 2088 on the top of Big Pryor Mtn. and west 2 miles to 2095A, the trail in the bottom of Bear Canyon NE from the "Y", and half of Upper Layout Creek Trail (BCNRA). Only the Upper Layout Cr. Tr. has trail signs. Printable guides for all of these hikes and more can be found at [www.PryorMountains.org](http://www.PryorMountains.org)

**Route names and numbers** in the Pryors can be confusing. BLM and the USFS use different route numbers for the same routes crossing the BLM/USFS boundary. Often they also use different names. Some routes have more than one common name used by people talking about the Pryors, and found on not-very-old maps. Generally the USFS posts only route numbers (not names) on 4WD route signs. Some BLM routes have neither route number or name signs.

For this map set we have used only route names and numbers that are actually on signs on the ground (as of May 2012). Route numbers on the green background are USFS numbers. Route names on yellow background are BLM names. NOTE: There are two different and unconnected roads named and signed "Crooked Creek Rd." shown on these maps.

**Access to the Pryors Map:** Access roads to the Pryor Mountains leave Highway 310 at four places: just south of Bridger MT, Warren MT, Cowley WY, and Lovell WY.

**From Bridger MT:** 2.5 miles south of Bridger take Pryor Mountain Road east toward the Pryors. See detailed Pryor Mountain Road guide at [www.PryorMountains.org](http://www.PryorMountains.org).

**From Warren MT:** At Montana Limestone Company sign turn east on Helt Rd. At "Y" 2.7 miles from Warren: Helt Rd continues right, left is Quarry Rd. At "Y" 7.1 miles from Warren on Helt Rd: Helt Rd continues left, right is Gyp Springs Rd.

**From Cowley WY:** Turn north from Hwy 310 on Division St. just west of the water tower in Cowley. This becomes County Rd 7 ½ when it leaves town. As of February 2012 there was no sign at the junction 2.7 miles north of Cowley where the pavement curves right to the airport and County Rd. 7 ½ continues straight ahead becoming gravel. There was also no sign at the "Y" junction 2.5 miles farther north. The left fork is Co. Rd. 7 ½ (despite what Google Maps might say) The right fork at the "Y" and a crossing road a little farther north are bentonite mining haul roads. They are best avoided. At the next junction 2.9 miles north of the "Y" there was no sign (Feb. 2012) indicating the left turn (west across a deep drainage) leads to Gyp Springs Rd, Helt Rd and Crooked Creek Rd. There were signs on the other two roads from the junction: Co. Rd. 7 ½ south and Gypsum Creek Rd. north

**From Lovell WY:** 0.5 miles east of the only stoplight in Lovell, turn left on Highway 14A. After 2.4 miles on Highway 14A, turn left (north) on Highway 37. Crooked Creek Rd turns left (west) from Hwy 37 at junction 8.8 miles north of Hwy 14A.