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Title:

Comments: I have previously submitted comments on 4/25/2019, regarding Pryor Mountain designations. My current primary opposition is to the designation of Punch Bowl and Big Pryor as BCA rather than RWA. My strongly held belief is that the roads in the Pryors have become too easy to navigate and that has only helped to change the level of use almost to abuse. I support limited use of ORVs and I feel that the balance has shifted in the Pryors to an emphasis on ORV use over preservation of wilderness. I doubt that that was deliberate and it is why I feel it is now crucial to move deliberately in the direction of Wilderness designation wherever it is even remotely possible.

As I've stated in the past, the change in the Pryors due to heavy use is clearly visible on the canyon floors and on the more-easily accessed elevations above. Weeds are everywhere and the dead remains choke the brush in many areas of the canyon floors. Previous fires were no help of course but fires going into the future are a real risk and even more reason to preserve what we have.

We know for a fact that public land use has skyrocketed, even before the pandemic, and that one of the suggested ways of dealing with this heavy use is to encourage visitors to banner National Park resources such as Yellowstone to go to less well-visited areas such as the Pryors. Spreading park and forest visitation out means the crowds are coming!

I can tell you and I'm sure you've seen it: the crowds are here. They are leaving boot prints, refuse, tire-tracked vegetation, trash, and an overall feeling that the Pryors are ailing. We must preserve as much as we can now, before it is too late. Let us please reconsider Punch Bowl and Big Pryor designation as a start. To me, there is a very real tragedy unfolding on our public lands with the effects of a changing climate coinciding with the greatest need ever for places to be in wilderness. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.