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Good Day,

I started going to the Pryors some 65 years ago with my father the game warden. I have spent a good number of nights on Big Pryor, hunting or just messing around. One of the arguments against giving a wilderness status to the mountain has been the existence of man-made (fences, etc.)

I would counter that argument with the Bob Marshall Wilderness. There are ranger stations, fences, corals, hunting camps, and so on. And yet, it was (correctly), given wilderness status. Several years ago I participated in the Pryors bio-blitz where we identified many invertebrates, bats and plants of interest in the many unique ecosystems that dot the landscape.

I have also spent many happy hours in Bear Canyon. The canyon is a ecosystem that is drastically different from the surrounding landscape. The presence of running water, the high limestone walls, and a complex plant community seem out of place in the semi-arid land that surround the canyon. The solitude that can be found there is as real as anyplace in the Beartooth Mountains.

So, kindly give these places the respect that they deserve. Thank you.