

January 30, 2019

Senator Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: S.47 – The Public Lands Package

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

Outdoor Alliance, The Outdoor Industry Association, and The Conservation Alliance write in support of the public lands package, S. 47, currently being considered in the Senate. Many of the bills under consideration in the package would have measurable benefits for conservation of our public lands and waters, the outdoor recreation experiences these places provide, and the thriving outdoor recreation economy that our public lands support.

The package represents a tremendous amount of bipartisan work from numerous Senators and their staff, and we encourage the Senate to pass S. 47 as it is presently constructed. Given the scope and ambition of S. 47, we felt it would helpful to highlight a few of the measures that are especially important to our organizations and broader communities:

Reauthorization of The Land and Water Conservation Fund – Section 3001

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is an overwhelmingly successful program for achieving balanced use of public lands by directing a portion of royalties from offshore oil and gas development toward targeted recreation and conservation land acquisitions. Over the life of the program, LWCF has funded critical protections for river corridors in places like West Virginia's Gauley and New Rivers and helped establish public river access points for canoers, kayakers, and rafters in places like Washington's White Salmon River. LWCF has made possible thousands of miles of single track for mountain bikers and hikers, including at areas like the world-class trail system at Lory State Park near Fort Collins, Colorado, and Toro Park, California, home to challenging trails and spectacular views of Monterey Bay. LWCF has funded close-to-home recreation opportunities in all fifty states and every congressional district.

Acquisitions under the LWCF program are targeted with a high level of specificity to achieve identified, narrowly focused public access and conservation objectives. These acquisitions are competitive and limited and are an important part of flexible and

balanced management of the federal estate. Critically, these acquisitions can be what makes the difference in providing close-to-home opportunities for outdoor recreation for all Americans, not just those living in close proximity to iconic areas or people with the ability to travel great distances.

Ensuring that public lands are truly public by facilitating access is a critical objective for the outdoor recreation community, and targeted land acquisition can be a necessary measure for creating access to broader landscapes on public lands or providing close-to-home opportunities, as well as an invaluable tool for protecting particularly exemplary locations when offered by willing sellers. Land acquisition can also be a valuable tool for reducing management costs and burdens by acquiring inholdings that may present management challenges or costly infrastructure needs.

LWCF is a decades-established promise to the American people that Congress will ensure that resource development occurs in tandem with protection for public lands and waters and the opportunities they provide for wildlife and outdoor recreation. Permanently reauthorizing LWCF, the “not less than 40%” approach for both state and federal components, and the new recreation and public access funding provision affirm this promise in a vigorous, forward-looking manner.

Emery County Public Land Management – Part II

The Emery County Public Land Management Part was developed by Emery County and a coalition of stakeholders, including conservation organizations, motorized recreation, human-powered recreation, local officials and governments, the State of Utah, and the Congressional delegation.

The Emery County Public Land Management Part balances important conservation protections with recreation management designations that will promote high quality recreation opportunities while also protecting and enhancing the regional economy and enjoys widespread support from a broad range of user groups, conservation organizations, local governments, and the outdoor business community.

As recreation advocacy organizations, we particularly support key provisions in this bill that establish a Recreation Area to highlight and permanently protect the recreational resources and conservation values of the San Rafael Swell region. This bill would also designate 63 miles of Wild and Scenic River, protect existing rock climbing resources, study future trail development opportunities, and establish wilderness areas throughout Emery County amounting to several hundreds of thousands of acres of permanently conserved public lands. We are also deeply appreciative of how this legislation was able successfully address the interests of Ute Tribe with the directed Utah SITLA land exchanges.

National Heritage Area Designations; Mountains to Sound Greenway – Section 6001(a)(2)

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is an outdoor paradise stretching from the Seattle to Ellensburg. It includes 1,600 miles of trails, excellent whitewater runs, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing, rock climbing routes, and mountain biking opportunities. The Greenway is accessed by members of all of our organizations to enjoy these activities, and is an important driver of Washington’s recreation economy.

National Heritage Area designation would help the different land agencies in the area better collaborate on management – from trail maintenance to trailhead parking and educational resources. This would have a significant positive impact for this area that is experiencing increasing popularity and use.

Designation would also promote local economic growth from tourism and outdoor recreation, and provides a flexible strategy to encourage residents, government agencies, nonprofit groups and private partners to collaboratively plan and implement projects to preserve a landscape, without affecting private property rights.

Methow Valley, Washington Federal Land Withdrawal – Section 1203

The Methow Valley and its headwaters are home to spectacular lands, diverse wildlife, and critical water resources. This incredible area is deeply linked to a strong, stable economy that supports farming and ranching, tourism, and world-class, year-round outdoor recreation. The headwaters are the heart and lifeblood for the valley, and are under threat from planned exploratory drilling and the potential for future development of an industrial-scale copper mine. The bill will protect these critical lands through a mineral withdrawal that makes 340,000 acres of the headwaters off-limits to large-scale mining and the potential damaging impacts it could bring to this vital and fragile area.

Oregon Wildlands –Section 1205

We support the Oregon Wildlands section of the bill that would secure Wilderness protection for 30,621 acres for the Devil’s Staircase. This section of the bill would also designate over 250 miles of wild and scenic rivers including the Molalla River, tributaries of the Rogue River, and other rivers and protect the Chetco River from mining activity. The version of Oregon Wildlands reported out of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in December 2018, would also preserve 128,034 acres of the Rogue Canyon and Molalla rivers as Recreation Areas and 59,512 acres along the Rogue River as

Wilderness. These protections, not included in the Natural Resources Management Act are of key significance for protecting river running and outdoor recreation opportunities in Oregon. While we support this section of the bill, our community favors the language reported out of Committee in the Senate last fall.

Emigrant Crevice Withdrawal – Section 1204

The bipartisan Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act would permanently withdraw federal mineral rights on public land in Custer Gallatin National Forest. The bill would protect 30,000 acres of National Forest Lands adjacent to the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness and Yellowstone National Park from industrial scale gold mining. The Custer Gallatin National Forest has spectacular climbing, skiing and snowshoeing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, and paddling.

Organ Mountains- Desert Peaks – Section 1201

The bill would designate ten Wilderness areas totaling 183,044 acres. Much of the proposed Wilderness is already managed as recommended Wilderness or Wilderness Study Area, and management changes created by the bill will help to address the needs of the climbing community. The areas that would be protected include sky island mountains, native Chihuahuan Desert grasslands, caves, limestone cliffs, and winding canyons that draw climbers, hikers, and other visitors to Doña Ana County.

California Desert Protection and Recreation Act – Section 1411

California Desert Protection and Recreation Act would protect 375,500 acres of Wilderness, expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks, and designate 77 miles of new Wild and Scenic Rivers in the California Desert. The bill would enhance wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation while enabling renewable energy development.

We are delighted with the enthusiasm and focus the Senate is bringing to S.47 presently and look forward to celebrating its passage in the near future.

Enclosed please find visualizations of some of the provisions discussed above that might assist in illustrating examples of how S.47 will conserve, protect and celebrate American public lands.

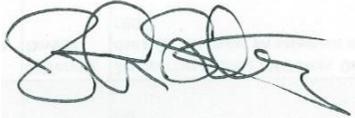
Best regards,



Adam Cramer
Executive Director
Outdoor Alliance



Amy Roberts
Executive Director
Outdoor Industry Association



John Sterling
Executive Director
The Conservation Alliance

cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Joe Manchin
Senator Maria Cantwell

Chris Winter, Executive Director, Access Fund
Wade Blackwood, Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Dave Wiens, Executive Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Mark Menlove, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Phil Powers, Chief Executive Officer, American Alpine Club
Sarah Bradham, Acting Executive Director, the Mazamas
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club
Chad Nelson, CEO, Surfrider Foundation

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Outdoor Alliance

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

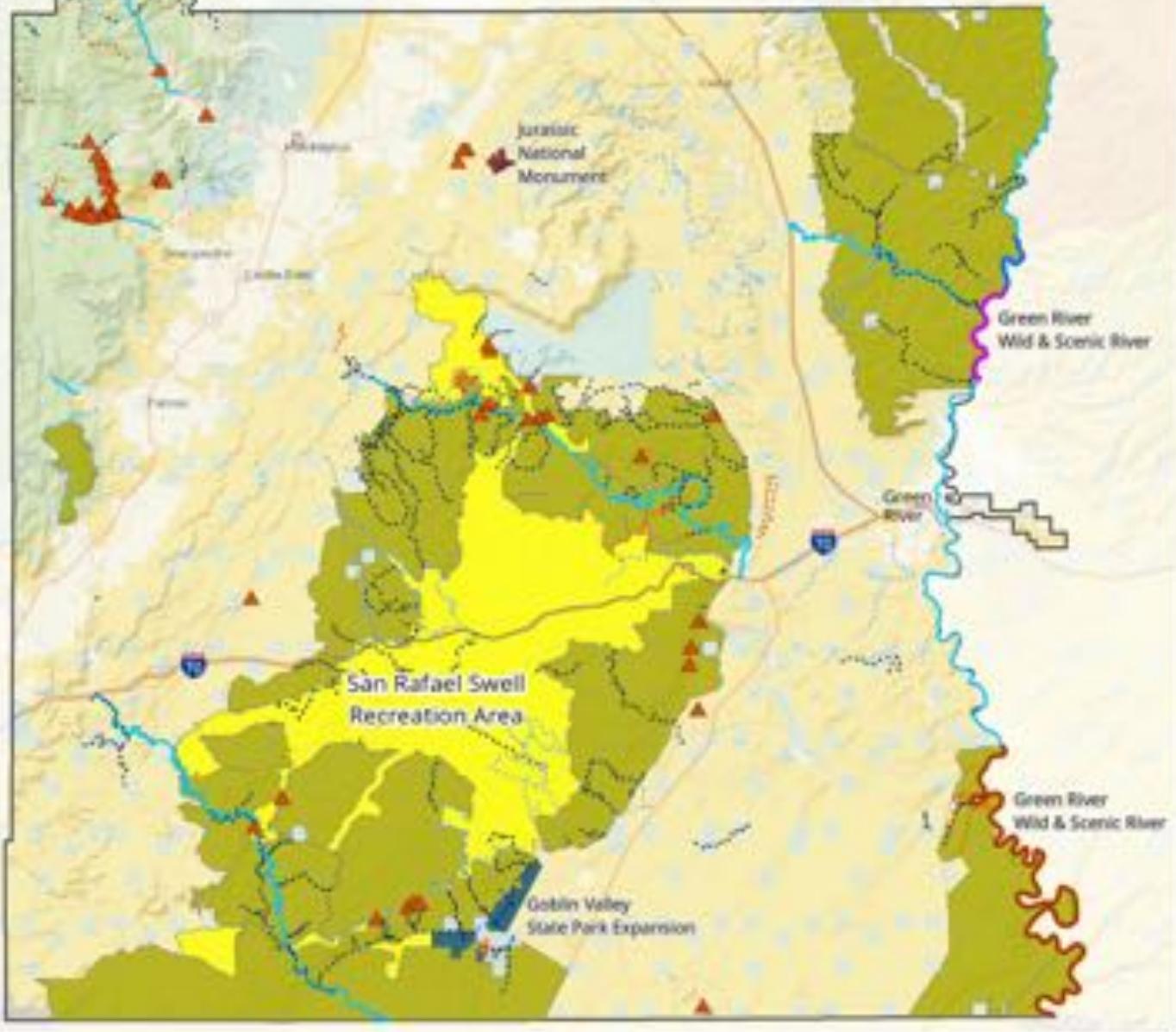
The Conservation Alliance

The Conservation Alliance is an organization of like-minded businesses whose collective contributions support grassroots environmental organizations and their efforts to protect wild places where outdoor enthusiasts recreate. Alliance funds have played a key role in protecting rivers, trails, wildlands and climbing areas. Membership in the Alliance is open to all companies who care about protecting our most threatened wild places for habitat and outdoor recreation. Since its inception in 1989, The Conservation Alliance has contributed more than \$21 million, helped to protect more than 51 million acres of wildlands; protect 3,107 miles of rivers; stop or remove 34 dams; designate five marine reserves; and purchase 14 climbing areas. For complete information on The Conservation Alliance, see www.conservationalliance.com.

Outdoor Industry Association

Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is the national trade association for the outdoor industry and is the title sponsor of Outdoor Retailer, the largest outdoor products tradeshow in North America. OIA serves over 1,300 manufacturers, suppliers, and retailers through a focus on international trade and public lands and recreation policy, sustainable business innovation and outdoor participation.

Emery County Public Land Management Act



Emery County Public Land Mng Act

- San Rafael Swell Recreation Area
- Jurassic National Monument
- Wilderness Area
- Goblin Valley State Park Expansion
- Wild and Scenic River - Recreation
- Wild and Scenic River - Scenic
- Wild and Scenic River - Wild

Land Ownership

- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service

Trails

- Hike
- Bike | Hike
- Motorized | Multi-use

Fish & Wildlife Service

- National Park Service
- Private
- State

Climbing Sites

- Climbing Sites

- Whitewater Paddling



Mountains To Sound Greenway National Heritage Area



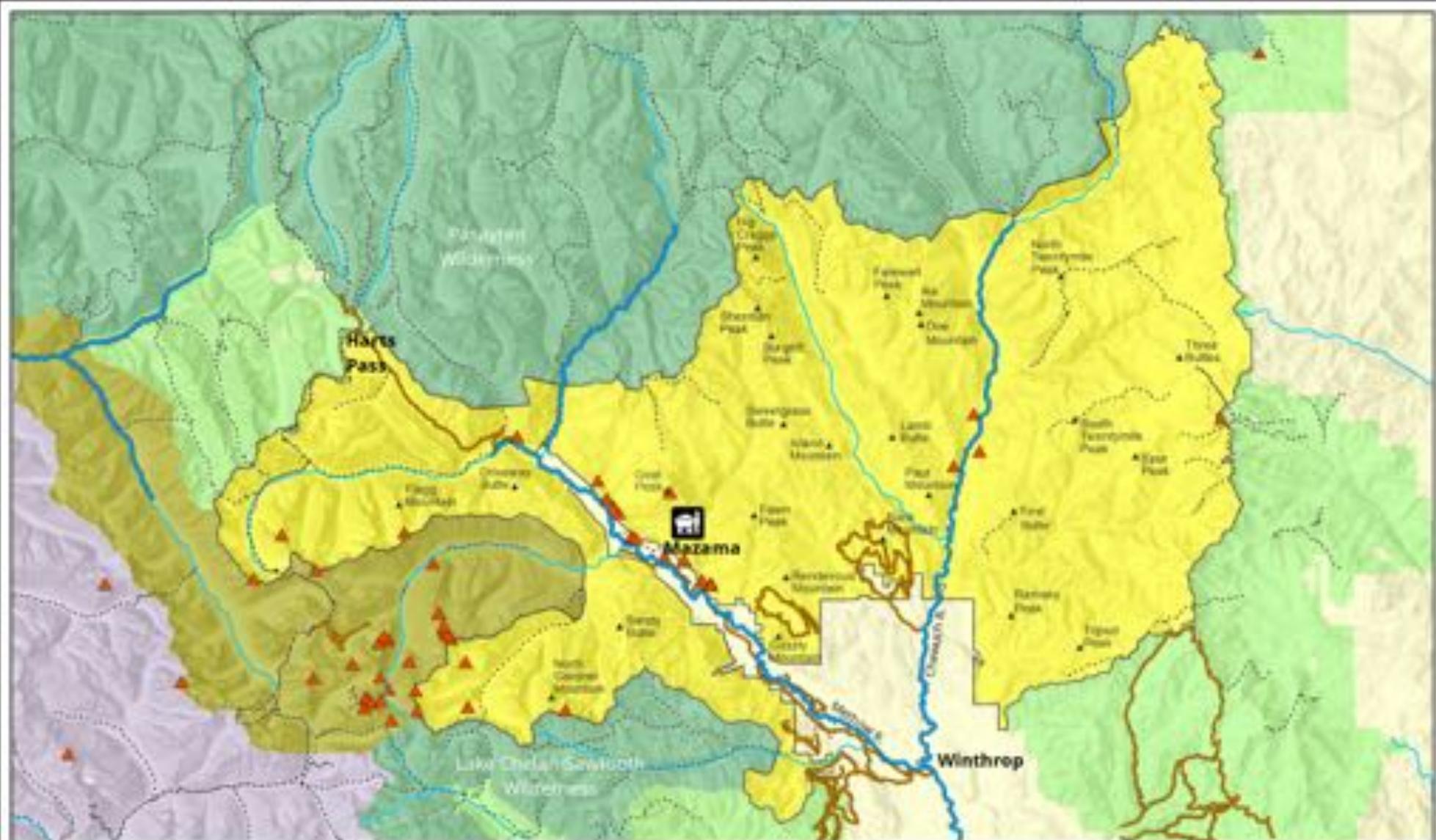
Land Management

- National Forest
- State
- County Park
- City Park
- Conserved Private Farm | Forest
- Watershed Protection Area
- City & Urban Growth Area
- Waterbody
- County Boundary
- Mtns. to Sound Greenway Boundary

Recreation

- Rock Climbing Site
- River Access
- Whitewater Paddling Run
- Regional Trail
- Trail

The information included in this map has been compiled from several sources including Adventure Projects, American Whitewater, and Washington Geospatial Open Data Portal.



Methow Headwaters Protection Act

- Methow Headwaters Protection Area
- Wilderness Area
- North Cascades National Scenic Area
- North Cascades National Park
- Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

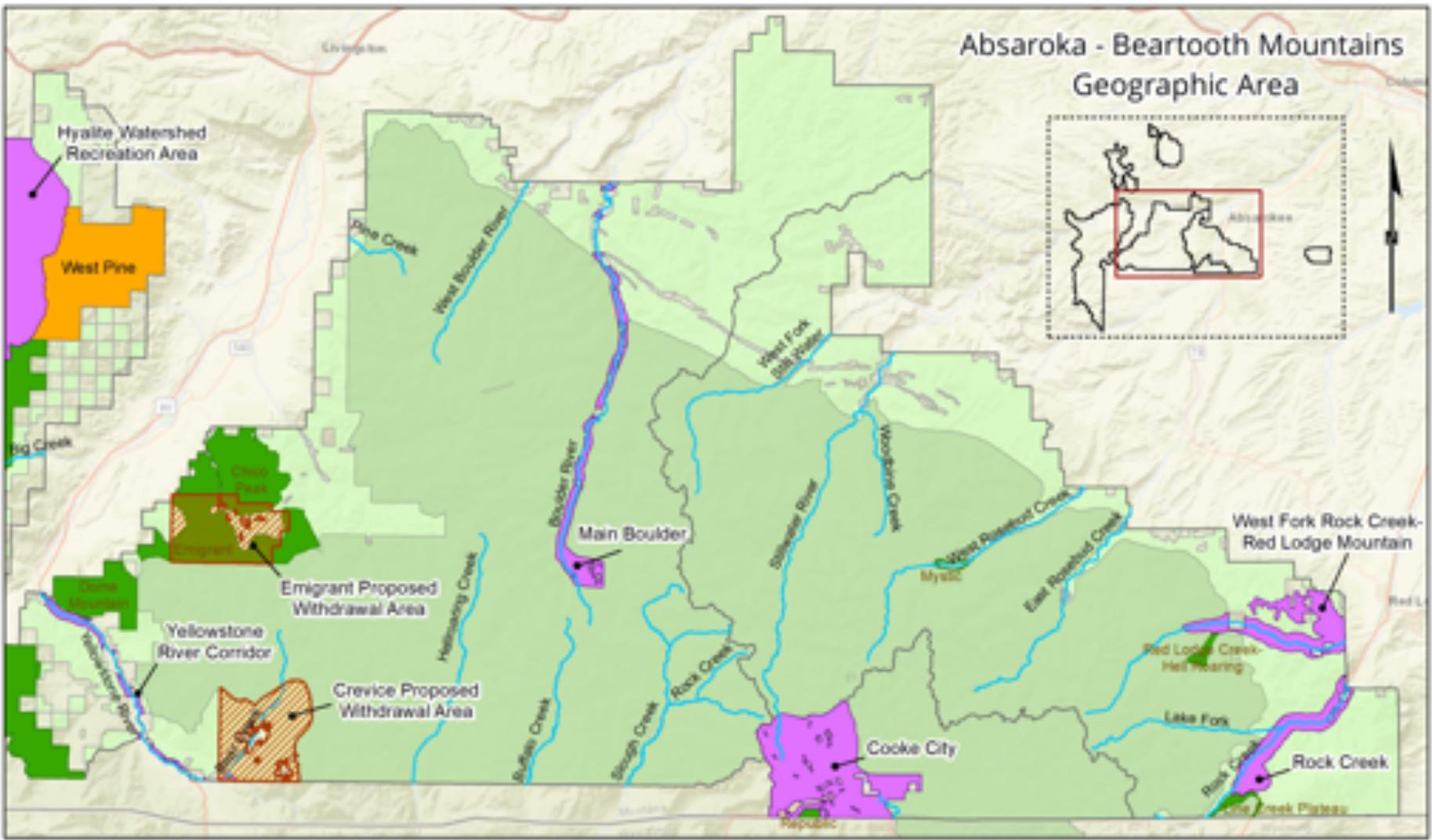
- M Approximate Mineral Exploration
- Climbing Site
- Mountain Biking Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Whitewater Paddling



0 100 Miles



Absaroka - Beartooth Mountains Geographic Area



Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision - Designated Areas and Special Emphasis Areas

- Eligible Wild & Scenic River
- Recreation Emphasis Area
- Recommended Wilderness Area
- Backcountry Area
- Proposed Mineral Withdrawal Area (Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act)
- Designated Wilderness Area
- U.S. Forest Service Land Ownership
- Custer Gallatin National Forest Boundary

