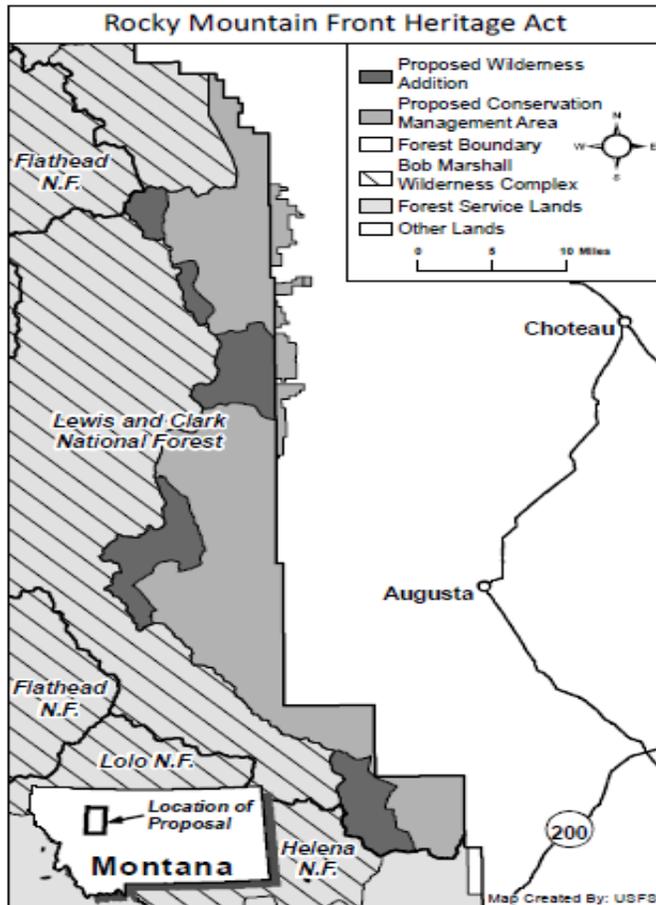


The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act: Resource Guide

At-a-Glance Summary and Map.....page 2

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The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act

is a common sense approach to conservation that will protect Montana’s world class wildlife and traditional uses on the public lands of the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Heritage Act ensures reasonable access to motorized and non-motorized users and ensures opportunities for hunters, outfitters, and livestock operators to use the outstanding natural resources of our public lands.

The Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act has three main parts: (1) Conservation Management Area; (2) Wilderness; and (3) Noxious Weed Management.

Conservation Management Area (CMA): 208,160 acres of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land will be managed to keep things the way they are and protected from unwanted changes such as excessive motorized use and roadbuilding.

The following uses/activities would continue: Chainsaw Use

- ✓ Mountain Biking
- ✓ Outfitting
- ✓ Hunting/Game Cart Use
- ✓ Fishing/Hiking/Camping
- ✓ Motorized Recreation - miles of trails would not expand
- ✓ Grazing
- ✓ Thinning, Post and Poll and Firewood Gathering

Wilderness: The Heritage Act would add approximately 67,112 acres of land to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. The grazing of livestock, outfitting, hunting, and other traditional uses would continue.

Noxious Weeds: Weeds are the common enemy of ranchers, sportsmen, private landowners and public land managers. The Heritage Act would require the Forest Service and BLM to prioritize eradication and control of noxious weeds on approximately 790,000 acres.

Section-by-Section Summary of the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act

Section 1 The title of the Act.

Section 2 Defines terms used throughout the legislation.

Section 3 Establishes the “Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area,” a layer of protection and management direction for 208,160 acres on the Lewis and Clark National Forest and BLM lands on the Front. Developed in collaboration with local ranchers, private landowners, and others, this customized designation is intended to ensure: 1) people can continue to make their livelihood from the land; 2) keep the Front the ‘way it is’ -- allow recreational uses as currently exist but address the threat of future expansion in motorized uses; 3) safeguard the public process.

The main parts of Section 3 are:

- a) Purposes – explains that the Conservation Management Area is designed to protect now and for future generations this area’s recreational, scenic, historical, cultural, fish, wildlife, roadless and ecological values. “Recreational” is a broad term that includes hunting, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, bicycling, rock climbing, and many other activities.
- b) Management – makes clear that the Conservation Management Area will be managed consistent with all current laws and regulations and in a manner that furthers the purposes stated for the Conservation Management Area.
- c) Motorized use – motorized vehicles shall be permitted where currently designated for use (as of the date of enactment of the Heritage Act). Land management agencies retain discretion to reroute or close a road or trail because of natural resource damage.
- d) Road building – construction of temporary roads for motorized vehicles is permitted to carry out vegetation management projects within ¼ mile of the Teton, South Teton, Sun River, Benchmark or Beaver Willow roads. Temporary roads must be obliterated within three years of project completion.
- e) Grazing – makes clear that grazing will continue where currently established, subject to applicable regulations and policies, and in manner consistent with stated purposes for the Conservation Management Area.
- f) Vegetation management – Vegetation management projects permitted within the Conservation Management Area if allowed by current regulation and policy and consistent with stated purposes for the Conservation Management Area.

Section 4 Designates wilderness additions to the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness areas totaling approximately 67,112 acres on the Lewis and Clark National Forest. This section includes management language that reiterates Congressional intent that:

- a. Livestock grazing and the maintenance of existing facilities relating to grazing shall continue where this was an established use at the time of designation.
- b. The Forest Service may take any measure needed in Wilderness to control fire, insect and diseases.
- c. No buffer zones are to be created and non wilderness (including overflights) can continue over/adjacent to wilderness areas.

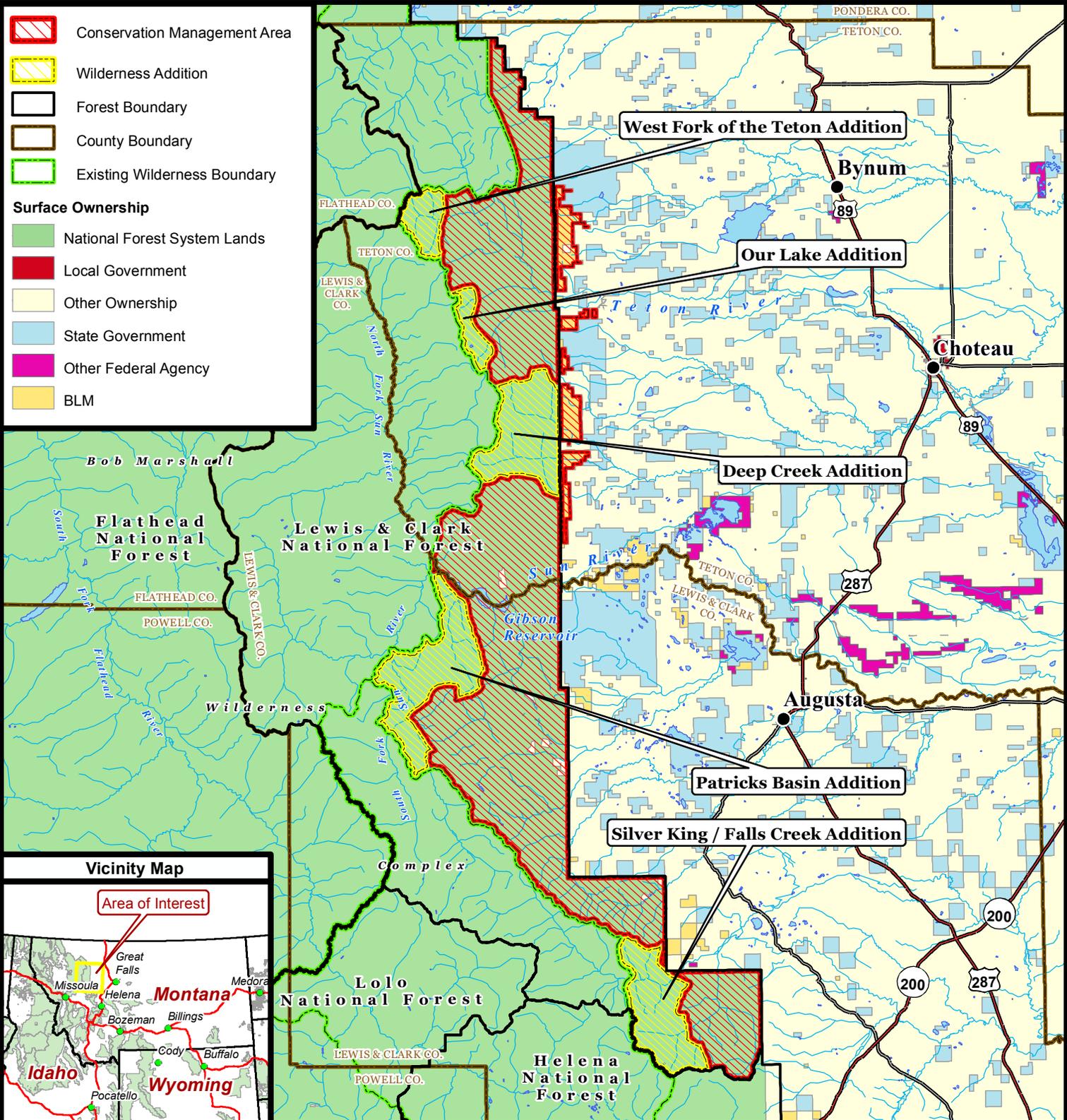
Section 5 Standard language that states that maps of the Conservation Management Area and Wilderness additions will be prepared and made publicly available.

Section 6 Requires development within one year's time of a comprehensive noxious weed management strategy for all Forest Service lands addressed in Sections 3 and 4 plus the Badger-Two Medicine area of the Lewis and Clark NF. Consultation with local and tribal government and the interested public is required.

Section 7 Requires the Lewis and Clark National Forest to develop a study, in consultation with mountain bicyclists, within two years, to provide for improved cycling opportunities on the Front.

Section 8 Clarifies that the State of Montana retains jurisdiction over managing hunting and fishing on the Front.

Section 9 Standard language that authorizes money to be appropriated as necessary to implement this Act.



Conservation Management Area
 Conservation Management Area

Wilderness Addition
 Wilderness Addition

Forest Boundary
 Forest Boundary

County Boundary
 County Boundary

Existing Wilderness Boundary
 Existing Wilderness Boundary

Surface Ownership

- National Forest System Lands
- Local Government
- Other Ownership
- State Government
- Other Federal Agency
- BLM



This act will establish approximately 208,160 acres of Federal land managed by the USFS and the BLM as the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area, and designate approximately 67,112 acres of land in the Lewis and Clark National Forest as additions to existing components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. All lands are within Lewis and Clark and Teton Counties, Montana

References
 Map prepared by the U.S. Forest Service, Region 1 Automated Lands Program (ALP) staff, at the request of Senator Baucus, Montana. For more information about this map contact U.S. Forest Service Region 1 ALP Staff. The boundaries of the proposed Conservation Management Area and Wilderness Additions were created by American Wildlands. For more information about the creation of these boundaries please contact American Wildlands.
 Surface ownership and boundary data within USFS Forest boundaries are from the Region 1 ALP database. Other surface ownership data are from the Montana Cadastral Mapping Project.

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 Map Creation Date - 10/27/2011
 Version 1

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Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act

Preliminary Map, 2011 Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act

U.S. Forest Service - Northern Region
 Lewis and Clark National Forest
 USDI Bureau of Land Management - Lewistown Field Office

Copies of this map are available for public inspection in the Office of the Regional Forester, Northern Region, Missoula, MT.

DISCLAIMER: The USDA Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied regarding the data displayed on this map, and reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace this information without notification.