

CREATION OF THE

MAAH DAAH HEY NATIONAL MONUMENT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. HISTORY	2
Indigenous History	
Recent History	
III. MONUMENT BOUNDARIES	6
Monument Map	
Monument Units	
IV. MAAH DAAH HEY LANDSCAPE	18
Description & Overall Condition	
Geologic & Paleontological Value	
V. AREA USE	22
Monument Landscape Threats	
Oil/Gas Development Impact	
Road Expansion Impact	
VI. CONCLUSION	25
VII. CLOSING	26
Acknowledgments	
Appendices	
Bibliography	

I. INTRODUCTION

This is a proposal for a Presidential Proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906, for a new National Monument comprising 139,729 acres on eleven non-motorized backcountry designated areas of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in the Badlands of the Little Missouri River basin of western North Dakota.

The buttes of the North Dakota Badlands are a unique and wild landscape that is the result of millions of years of sedimentary buildup and erosion. Native American tribes have lived in the area going back to the beginning of human habitation on the land, where the Badlands were a place to hunt bison, trap eagles, and a place for prayer, contemplation and spirit quests.

Location

Much of the Badlands remain a sacred place for Native Americans in North Dakota, most notably the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (Sahnish) (MHA) Nation. Members of MHA Nation still travel to the Badlands for ceremonies and to connect with their present and past. One connection to the tribe's history in the area is the multi-use trail that transects 144 miles of the North Dakota Badlands, known as the Maah Daah Hey Trail. The name Maah Daah Hey was originally developed by MHA member and former National Park Service Superintendent of Mount Rushmore, Gerard Baker. In the Mandan language, the phrase "Maah Daah Hey" means "grandfather, long-lasting." It is used to describe things or an area that have been or will be around for a long time and is deserving of respect. The Maah Daah Hey Trail has also been recognized as a National Recreational Trail by Congress.

This landscape that has long been inhabited by native people is one that is now under massive threat. Corporate oil and gas development and its associated infrastructure are being allowed to encroach upon some of the wildest places in the North Dakota Badlands. We are proposing the permanent conservation of 139,729 acres of the North Dakota Badlands along the Maah Daah Hey Trail. The acreage within the proposed monument has already been designated as "Road-less Areas" by the United States Forest Service and is currently managed as "Non-Motorized Backcountry". As a result, monument designation will keep the land as Road-less Non-Motorized Backcountry, permanently protecting its extraordinarily abundant and diverse late cretaceous fossil resources, allowing rich recreation opportunities in the area, including hunting, fishing, and hiking. Most importantly, the proposed monument will assign permanent protection to the ancestral lands of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Sahnish (Arikara) people recognizing their connection to the land long before it was expropriated by the United States.



II. HISTORY

The history below is a description of the historical path from the MHA Tribal Ancestral Lands (the Badlands) to the current situation today of the non-motorized units of the United States Forest Service Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Indigenous History

Before The Fort Laramie Treaty

Native Americans have lived or traveled to the Badlands to hunt the abundant bison herds, gather medicine, trap eagles, and take part in spiritual ceremonies for over 11,000 years. Native American people continue to visit the Badlands due to the spiritual connection they have with the land. Many tribes in North Dakota and the surrounding region have long standing histories in the Badlands, but none more than the Three Affiliated Tribes. The Three Affiliated Tribes primarily used the Badlands to hunt bison, eagle trap, collect medicine, and go on vision quests. The Three Affiliated Tribes, according to the MHA history: "The Mandan, Hidatsa, and Sahnish believe their presence in North America is from the beginning of time. The Mandan call themselves "the People of the first Man." The Hidatsa were known as Minnetaree. Hidatsa was formerly the name of a village occupied by these tribes, which has been said to mean "willows." The name Minnetaree, spelled in various ways, means "to cross the water." Oral historians say the names "Arikara, Arickara, Ricarees, and Rees" were given to them by the Pawnee and other informants to describe the way they wore their hair. It is important to be mindful that the people call themselves Sahnish, which means, "the original people from whom all other tribes sprang."

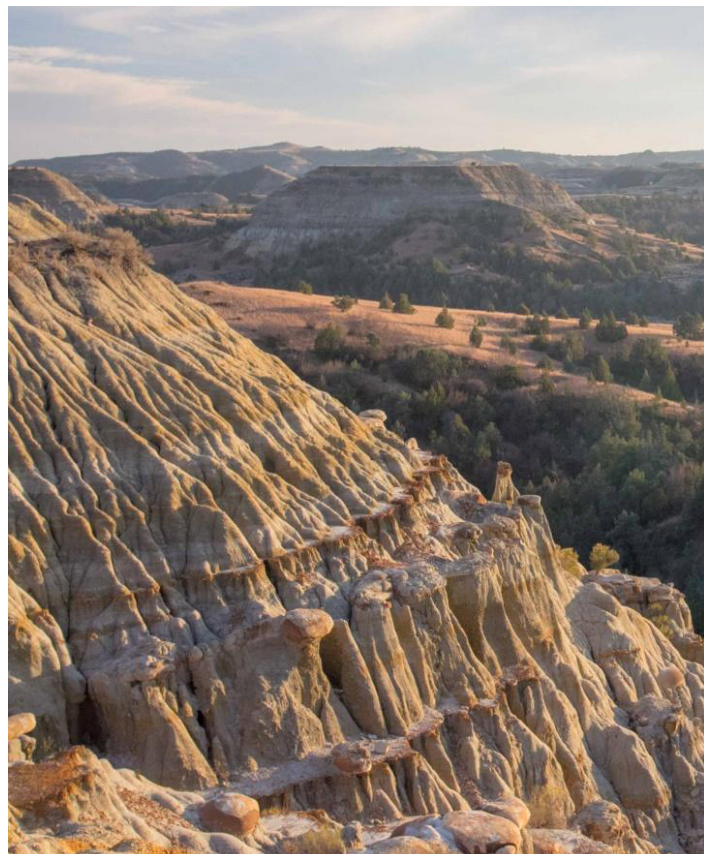
West of the Badlands, the Crow Nation also utilized the Badlands at the eastern edge of their traditional lands. Many other tribes including the Blackfeet, Chippewa, Cree, and Sioux came to western North Dakota in the early 19th century mainly for hunting and trading, often with the Mandan, and later at trading posts established in the 19th century. These groups did not necessarily utilize the Badlands in the way the Mandan, Hidatsa, or Crow people did. The Assiniboiné occupied a large area of the Northern Great Plains north of the Missouri River. The Sahnish came to western and central North Dakota and several bands of the Lakota (Sioux) expanded their range into western North Dakota in the 19th century. Each group has its own history, traditions, spirituality, stories, and uses associated with the Badlands. Eagle trapping, bison hunting, and other spiritual purposes are traditional uses in the region.

Several places from 1740's-1880's, that coincide with oral tradition have been found in the Badlands including stone rings, rock cairns, and four conical, timbered lodges. Two of the lodges, which were likely used in seasonal eagle trapping, are still standing today. These

structures are reminders of how recently local Native Americans used this land as their ancestors had done for generations. Former MHA Tribal Historian, Calvin Grinnell, visited one of the eagle trapping sites recently and it is located near the southern portions of the proposed monument.

According to Grinnell, there are at least 20 more similar standing structures within the Badlands up and down the Little Missouri River (several likely within the proposed monument's boundaries). This important history still remains. This makes the Native American history of the Badlands that much more important to know, understand and respect.

The most common narrative of the North Dakota Badlands is that of the recent traditional west, Theodore Roosevelt, and settler culture. This narrative surrounding the North Dakota Badlands has effectively overshadowed the history that long predates western expansion. To rectify this issue, the preservation of the lands, culture, and history of the native people who came long before western settlers is imperative. The name Maah Daah Hey means "grandfather" or "long lasting" in the Mandan language, an appropriate name for a monument preserving the traditional lands of indigenous people who have a history going back thousands of years in the North Dakota Badlands. By preserving the proposed parcels and naming the monument Maah Daah Hey, the narrative surrounding the North Dakota Badlands will include emphasis on the indigenous history of the region.



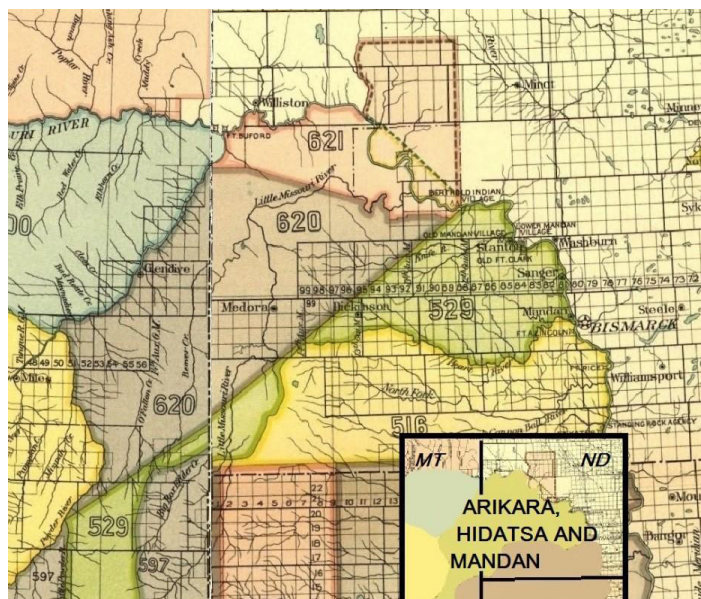


Figure 1: Fort Laramie Treaty Map: Indicates the Arikara, Hidatsa, and Mandan Indian territory as described in the Treaty of Fort Laramie (1851), North Dakota.

Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 and abrogation of MHA Treaty Lands

The Fort Laramie treaty of 1851 designated the area in the northern drainage of the Little Missouri River as territory to be exclusive to the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara (MHA). The boundaries of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Sahnish (Arikara) territory were set aside in the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty: Commencing at the mouth of the Heart River; thence up the Missouri to the mouth of the Yellowstone River; thence up the Yellowstone to the mouth of Powder River; thence in a southeasterly direction to the headwaters of the Little Missouri River; thence along the Black Hills to the headwaters of the Heart River; thence down the Heart River to the place of the beginning. (Figure 1)

Under the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty, Area 529, 620 and 621 (Figure 1) was territory that was to be the exclusive territory of the MHA Nation. Area 620 of the treaty, MHA territory, is the area in which the current day Little Missouri Grassland District of the Dakota Prairie National Grasslands is situated.

Even before the end of the Civil War, designs on these territories were being laid by the United States. In 1862, Congress passed the Pacific Railway Act that funded the building of the first transcontinental railroad, through land grants and low-interest federal loans. Congress chartered the Northern Pacific Railway Company on July 2, 1864, with the goal of connecting the Great Lakes with Puget Sound on the Pacific.

Congress also granted the Northern Pacific railroad a potential 60 million acres (94,000 sq. mi) of land in exchange for building rail transportation to an

undeveloped territory and in the end took just under 40 million acres. Much of the land that was granted to the Northern Pacific was treaty lands of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Sahnish. In 1868, the Northern Pacific Railway (NPR) began operation.

The Executive Order of 1870

President Ulysses S. Grant's Executive Order of April 12, 1870 reduced the MHA territory of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 by the area depicted as Area 529 in (Figure 1). The United States Government took off the southern boundary of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Sahnish territories. The southern boundary of the reservation created by the order became a straight line from the junction of the Powder River from the Little Powder River to a point on the Missouri River four miles below Fort Berthold. This allowed a right-of-way to be given over to the Northern Pacific by the United States all the way to present-day Dickinson, North Dakota.

The Indian Appropriations Act of 1871

The Indian Appropriations Act, "Provided that no treaties shall hereafter be negotiated with any Indian tribe within the United States as an independent nation or people." Thereafter all Indian land cessions were achieved by act of Congress or by executive order. Area 620 and 621 remained territory of the MHA Nation.

In 1868, the NPR began operation, and its tracks reached Moorhead, Minnesota, just across the Red River from Fargo, in 1871. The Northern Pacific reached Fargo, Dakota Territory (now North Dakota), early in June 1872. The following year, in June 1873, the Northern Pacific reached the shores of the Missouri River, at Edwinton (now Bismarck), Dakota Territory. Surveys were carried out in North Dakota accompanied by 600 troops under General Winfield Scott Hancock. By 1873 the Northern Pacific Railroad survey crews were in the region scouting potential routes to build to Puget Sound in Washington Territory.

The Executive Order of 1880

In 1864, when the Northern Pacific Railroad was chartered, it was granted right-of-way and land grants forty miles on either side of the proposed line. This right-of-way and land grants went through the lands of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Sahnish (Arikara). Construction of the railroad reached their lands in 1879. The Northern Pacific Railroad Company drew up a resolution asking for a reduction of the reservation. When asked about the tribes' use of the territory, Lt. Colonel Dan Huston, commanding officer at Ft. Stevenson, asserted that the land in question was the territorial hunting grounds of the MHA. However, the response was made by Colonel Nelson A. Miles, stationed at Fort Stevenson, who reported that the tribes did not occupy, nor require the use of the land, and "never had." Miles stated that the

land had been reserved for the benefit of the fur traders. Brigadier General Alfred H. Terry endorsed the railroad company's request, ignored Huston's letter, and favored revoking the 1870 Executive Order.

Area 620, (**Figure 1**) part of the MHA reservation created by President Grant's 1870 proclamation, was "restored to the public domain" by President Rutherford B. Hayes' proclamation of July 13, 1880, reputedly at the behest of the Northern Pacific Railroad that was expanding west of Dickinson.

In the ensuing decades from the 1880's-1920's, the now federal lands in the MHA treaty lands were homesteaded under the Homestead Act of 1862 or retained by the United States, and railroad grant lands were sold.

It is in Area 620, in the drainage of the Little Missouri River, that the Badlands and the non-motorized backcountry units for the proposed Maah Daah Hey National Monument are situated.

Recent History

Monument Proposed

When thoughts of a national park for North Dakota first gained currency around 1920, promoters, (National Parks Highway Association) advanced the establishment of a reserve covering most of the watershed of the Little Missouri River. One early plan called for a park of 1,300,000 acres, or 2030 square miles. If approved, it would have been the third largest national park in existence. A subsequent plan of 1927 called for a much smaller park: a strip of land twelve to fourteen miles wide extending ninety miles along the Little Missouri from Marmarth to the eastern swing of the river south of Watford City. The North Dakota Legislative Assembly went on record favoring a park, yet could not translate its sentiment into any effective action at all.

According to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Administrative History, "Another reason was that despite its general tone of discouragement, the National Park Service had the possibility of including the North Dakota Badlands somewhere in the system. According to John Ise, author of what is probably the most comprehensive history of the National Park System, in the late 1920s the Park Service "was fighting the Roosevelt project"—presumably, the 1927 plan put forward by the Roosevelt Memorial National Park Association. As laid out in the 1927 proposal, the park would have been 60,000 acres in extent. The report of a fact-gathering tour of the area in 1928—attended by Mather, first director of the National Park Service, among others—led to the National Park Service cautiously, and tentatively, recommending national monument status. Four years later, Mather's successor, Horace Albright, echoed this opinion in a speech, implying that becoming a national monument was the first step toward national park designation." The

area considered included the same lands in which the current non-motorized backcountry units are situated.

Resettlement Administration & Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937

The 1933 Industrial Recovery Act and the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935 allowed the federal government to purchase sub-marginal lands and resettle destitute families. About a year into Franklin D. Roosevelt's first term, his new Resettlement Administration was given authority to buy land of little agricultural value. Under this program and at the height of the dust bowl, many of the homesteaders in western North Dakota were only too happy to get rid of acreage that was barely productive. There was no official pressure to sell, but one Badlands rancher recalled that "some of the land buyers were kind of aggressive."

The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act Title III (P.L. 75-210) was passed on July 22, 1937 and authorized acquisition by the federal government of damaged lands to rehabilitate and use them for various purposes. The law as finally enacted has three principal purposes:

- To promote farm home ownership through a system of long-term farm mortgage loans.
- To rehabilitate distressed farm families (who cannot be aided in purchasing a farm) through short-term loans for livestock, equipment and supplies.
- To provide for the development of a land conservation and utilization program, through the purchase of submarginal land for agriculture, and the development of such land into uses for which it is best suited.

In western North Dakota land was acquired mainly for setting up leased grazing and rehabilitation areas under the Department of Agriculture. Most of what was purchased under the auspices of the Resettlement Act is now part of the Little Missouri National Grasslands (LMNG). Officials designed the Land Utilization (LU) programs to bring about sound land use, and achieve a balance between rural economic needs and natural resources. The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act gave custody of these lands to the Secretary of Agriculture, and authorized more extensive conservation efforts. By 1942, the Department of Agriculture administered over 1,000,000 acres in the Dakotas, including both original public domain and recently purchased submarginal land.

Dakota Prairie Grasslands

In 1954, the United States Government reviewed the administration of LU property as part of a Department of Agriculture re-organization. They transferred parcels most suitable for specialized use to the National Park Service and United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Other western units went to the Bureau of Land Management. Thirteen (13) reforested LUs became national forests and in 1960, nearly four million acres became 18 national grasslands administered by the Forest Service. Since 1960, the total number and size of the grasslands has remained constant. The Custer National Forest administered the Little Missouri, Sheyenne, Cedar River, and Grand River National Grasslands until 1998, when the agency established the Dakota Prairie Grasslands with a Supervisor's Office in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Wilderness

In 1993 a coalition including the MHA Nation, the Sierra Club, both the national organization and North Dakota's state chapter, the Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation, National Parks and Conservation Association, American Rivers and other conservation organizations, proposed Wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964, for eleven non-motorized backcountry areas in this area, along with National Wild and Scenic River designation for the Little Missouri River. The proposals did not come to fruition, as no bills were introduced to designate wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers in these areas.

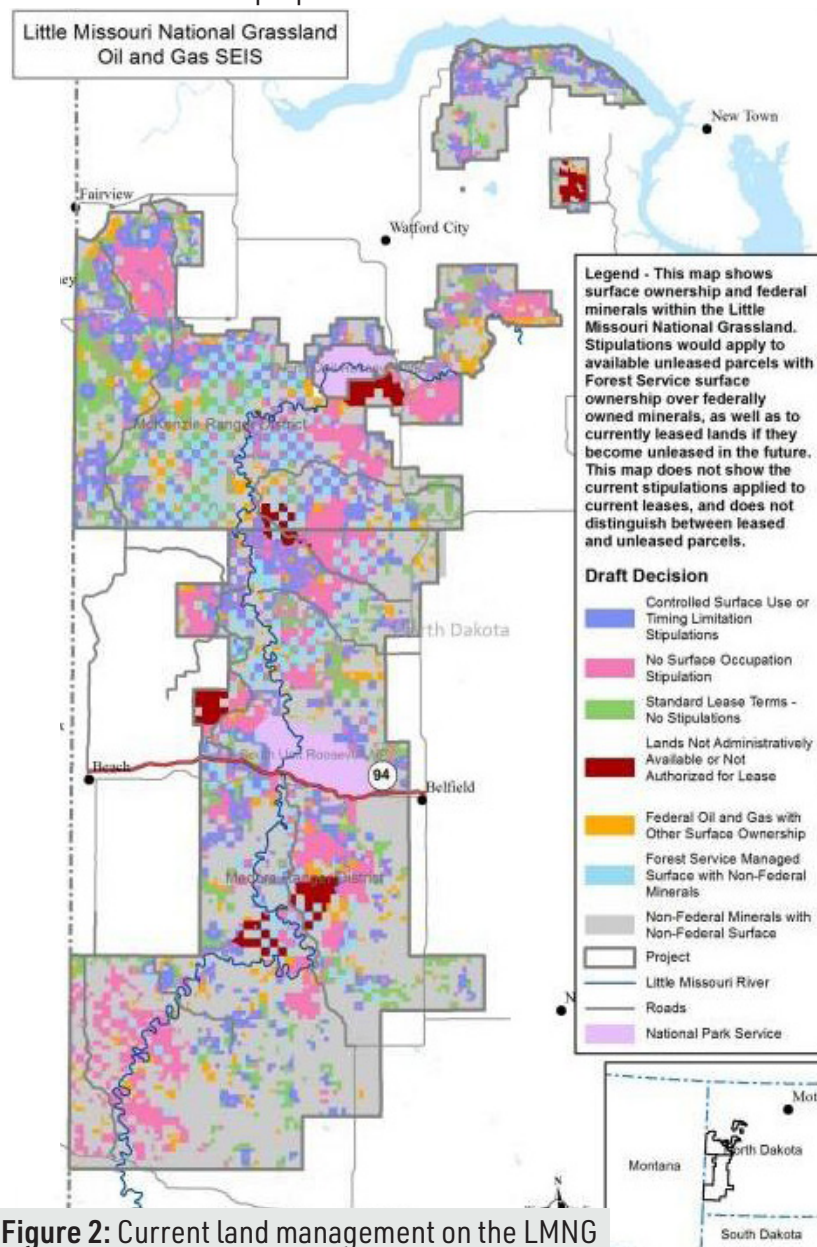
In 2001, the United States Forest Service issued its "Land and Resource Management Plan for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands." In that Plan, four of the non-motorized backcountry units- Bullion Butte, Kinley Plateau, Twin Buttes and Long X Divide- were managed as "Suitable for Wilderness" and the remaining seven non-motorized areas are managed for, bighorn sheep habitat and "Natural Research Areas."

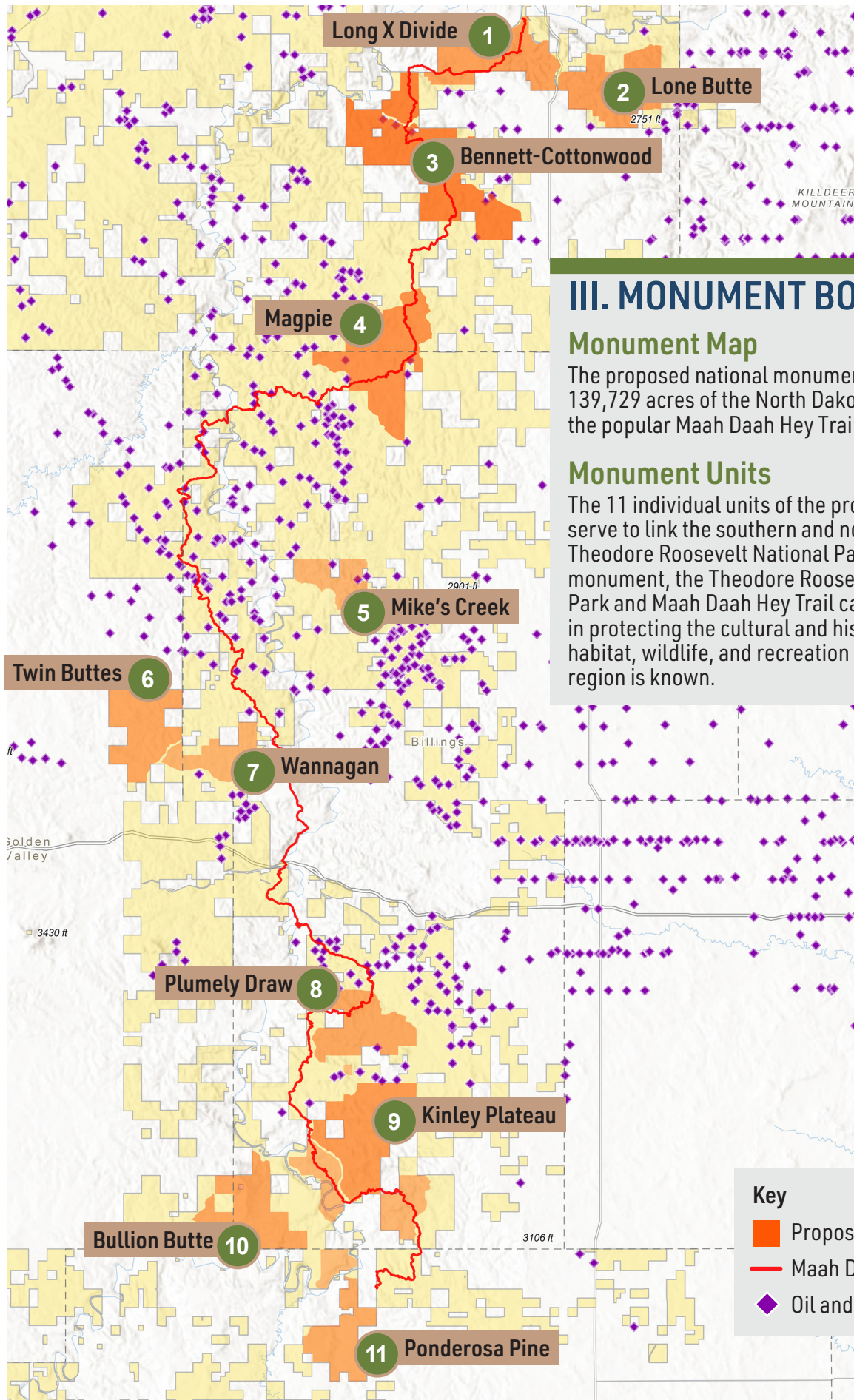
In 2002, the Forest Service revised its 2001 plan, issuing "United States Forest Service Revised Grasslands Plan," continuing to identify the four areas, totaling 41,520 acres, as "Suitable for Wilderness." However these areas were not recommended for Wilderness at this time.

In 2012, organizations approached then Sen. Kent Conrad's (D- ND) staff, with draft legislation entitled the "Prairie Legacy Wilderness Act of 2012" (see appendix 2). The bill would have designated Wilderness in those four units. Though the concept had some considerable political support, a bill was never introduced.

If this proposal is approved, the wilderness character of these areas will be protected, (MA 1.2A) to keep future options available. In addition, 69,050 acres of backcountry non-motorized recreation areas (MA 1.31) and 20,120 acres of Natural research areas have been identified. All of these management areas provide a non-motorized setting that currently does not exist elsewhere in the Badlands. Together, these areas comprise almost 9% percent of the DPG as displayed in (Figure 2).

In 2020 the Dakota Prairie Grasslands issued their "Record of Decision Little Missouri Grasslands Oil and Gas Leasing". In that Record of Decision "No Surface Occupancy Stipulation [NSO]" was recommended for the Non-Motorized Backcountry units. That decision does not recommend oil leasing at this time, but the record of decision does not guarantee future protection regarding surface occupation for oil and gas leasing. There are currently no Federal mineral withdrawals needed for the land in this proposal.





III. MONUMENT BOUNDARIES

Monument Map

The proposed national monument encompasses 139,729 acres of the North Dakota Badlands along the popular Maah Daah Hey Trail.

Monument Units

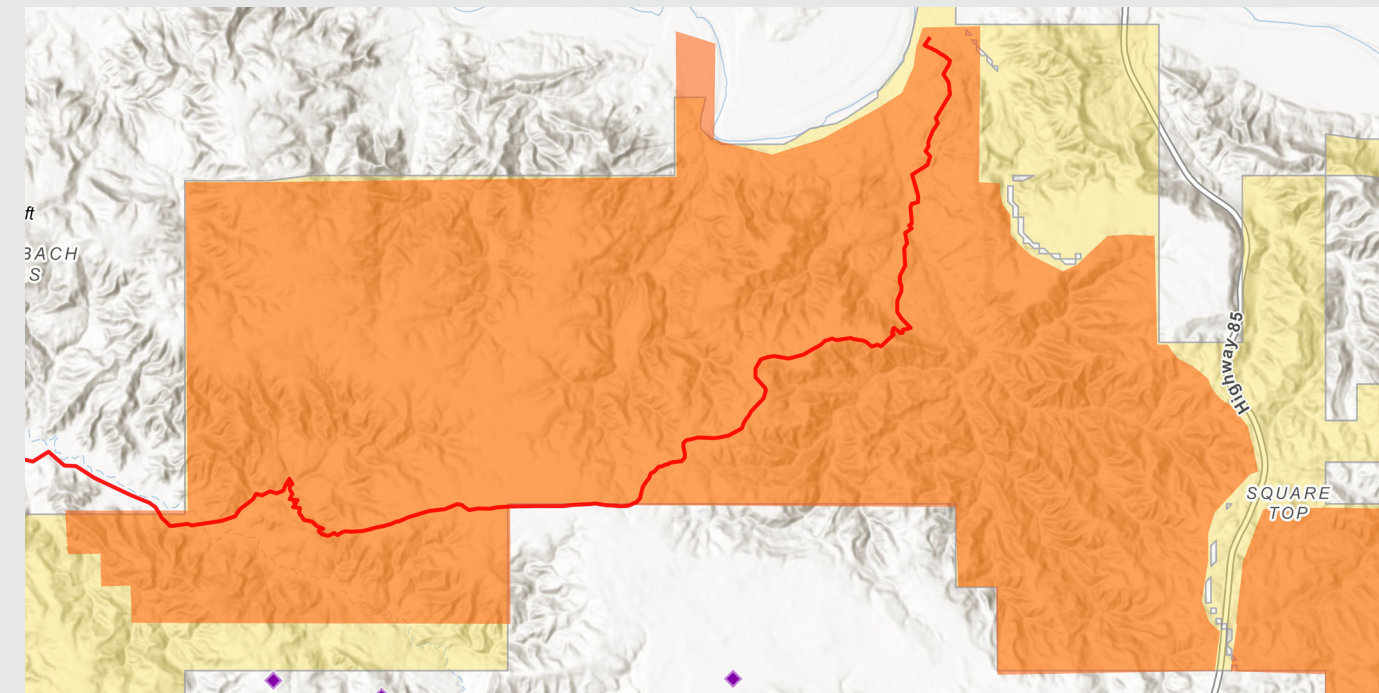
The 11 individual units of the proposed monument serve to link the southern and northern units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The proposed monument, the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Maah Daah Hey Trail can work together in protecting the cultural and historic resources, habitat, wildlife, and recreation for which the region is known.

1. Long X Divide

Located in the steepest and deepest section of the Little Missouri-carved Badlands, Long X Divide is one of the most rugged and wild areas in North Dakota. The vegetation ranges from riparian forests along the river to the juniper-forested slopes and rolling mixed grass prairie of the uplands.

Long X Divide provides numerous opportunities for visitors seeking solitude. In combination with the trail system of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the area can offer days of hiking and backpacking. The lack of motorized access in the area makes it a haven for mule deer and elk and provides the hunters with some of the most remote hunting in the state.

There are 10 archaeological, 13 historic and two isolated artifact sites known to exist in this proposed section. Long X Divide is managed as "Suitable for Wilderness." Threats for this unit are the proposed widening of US Highway 85 along the eastern edge and oil and gas infrastructure along the southern boundary.



2. Lone Butte

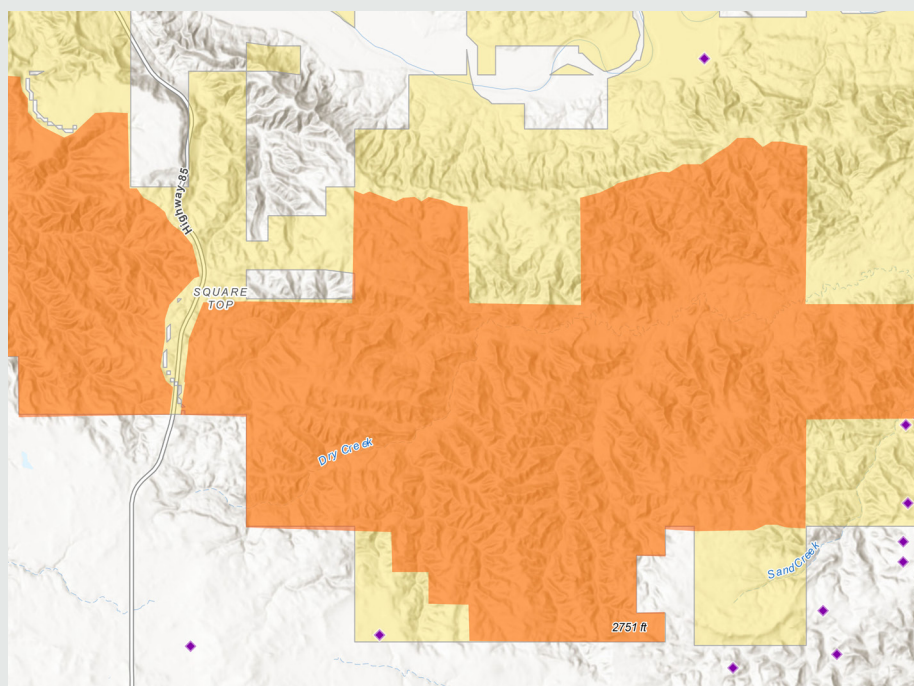
Lone Butte is highlighted by some of the most cragged Badlands topography in the monument proposal. The erosion of Dry Creek, the major drainage in the area, has resulted in Lone Butte's immensely carved canyons. The northern portion of the area provides spectacular views of the Little Missouri River. The region's north and east slopes and numerous drainages are home to dense stands of juniper, green ash, American elm, chokecherry and buffalo berry. The secluded nature of the area makes the region one of the most sought-after hunting units. Bighorn Sheep also utilize the remote habitat of Lone Butte. Despite rebounding populations of sheep, the impact of oil and gas development in the region poses a major threat to the long-term health of Bighorn Sheep in North Dakota. With a monument designation, the Forest Service and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department may better manage Bighorn Sheep habitats.

In addition to bighorn, the region offers crucial nesting habitat for prairie falcons and golden eagles as well as sharp-tailed grouse breeding grounds. Lone Butte's close location to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit as well as the spectacular view of the Little Missouri River from the north side of the unit makes it an important destination for visitors in the region.

The butte's many hills, valleys, woody draws, and other drainage areas, along with its size, makes for challenging backcountry hiking and offers solitude to the outdoor enthusiast. From its large sandstone cliffs and boulder-scattered inclines to its grassy summit and juniper-forested northeast slope, the butte offers variety and challenge yet is accessible to the majority of hikers and horseback riders. The nearby stretch of the Little Missouri State Scenic River, the other major recreational feature, offers fishing and canoeing opportunities.

There are 15 archaeological, six historical, and 20 isolated artifact sites known to exist within this proposed monument area.

Lone Butte is managed as Non-Motorized Backcountry with No Surface Occupancy oil and gas development. Major threats to the unit are the proposed widening of US Highway 85 along the western edge of the unit and oil and gas infrastructure along the other boundaries, especially with the "No Surface Occupation" stipulation in the 2020 Oil and Gas IES, which could allow horizontal drilling under the unit.



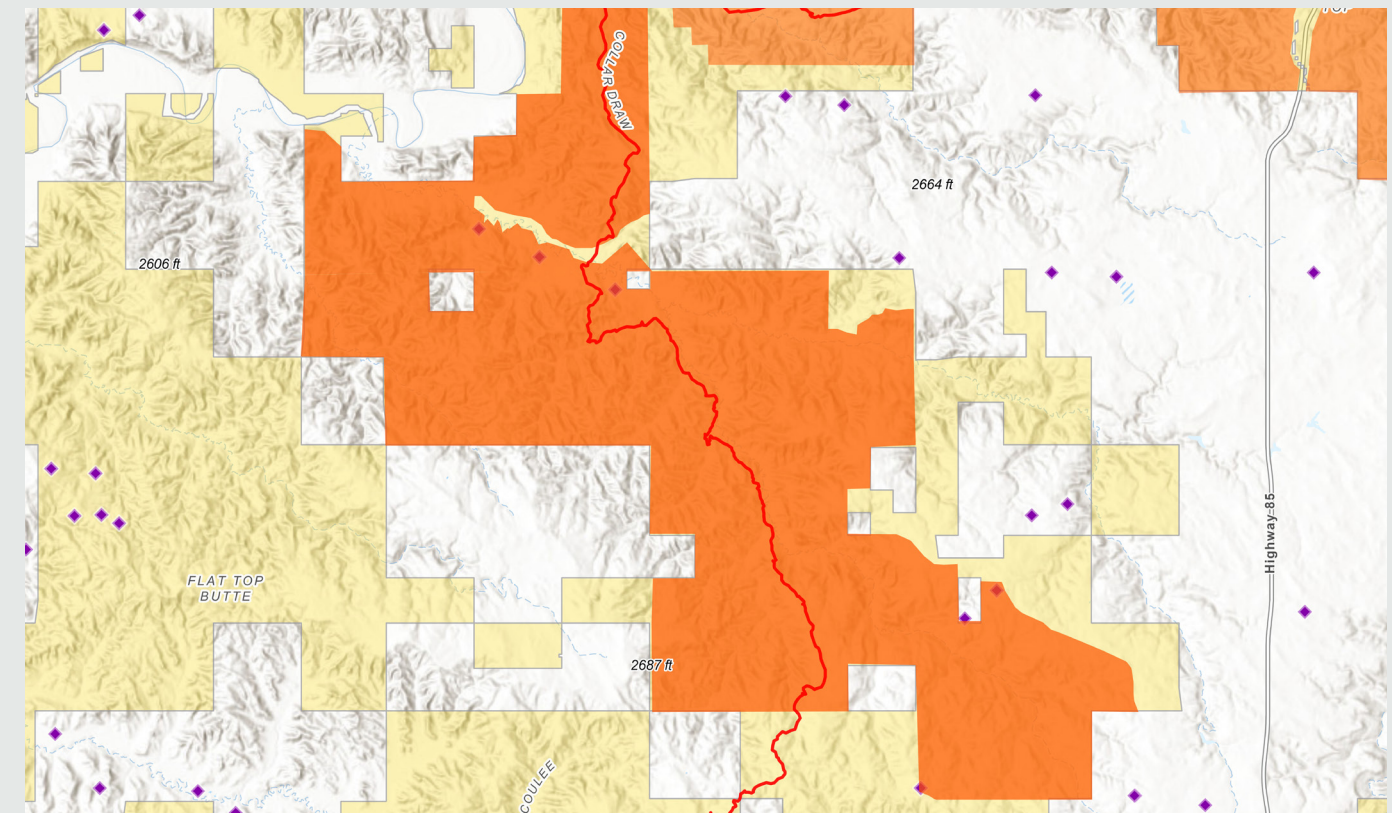
3. Bennett-Cottonwood

Bennett Creek is a wide flat-bottomed canyon with active prairie-dog "towns," characteristic of the larger tributary drainages of the Little Missouri River. Side canyons of Bennett Creek, such as Sheep Creek, are extremely rugged and offer excellent opportunities for solitude.

Cottonwood Creek is narrower and more primitive than Bennett Canyon and presents some of the best scenery and most challenging terrain in this proposed monument. Its grassy ridge tops offer extensive vistas of craggy canyons and steep multicolored cliffs.

There are 10 archaeological, five historical, and two isolated artifact sites known to exist within the Bennett-Cottonwood unit. The Bennett-Cottonwood unit is managed for Non-Motorized Backcountry with No Surface Occupancy oil and gas development. It is a road-less and primitive area. The biggest threat to Bennett-Cottonwood is oil and gas development, particularly increased development along the edges of the unit due to presence of existing roads.

With the exception of the northern portion, most of Bennett-Cottonwood is a road-less and primitive wildlife area. Various two-track roads exist in the area, but have little effect on the natural qualities. Bennett-Cottonwood is one of the few areas where solitude can be found on a multi-day horse packing or a backpacking trip is still feasible. The area contains plentiful wildlife, including Bighorn Sheep.

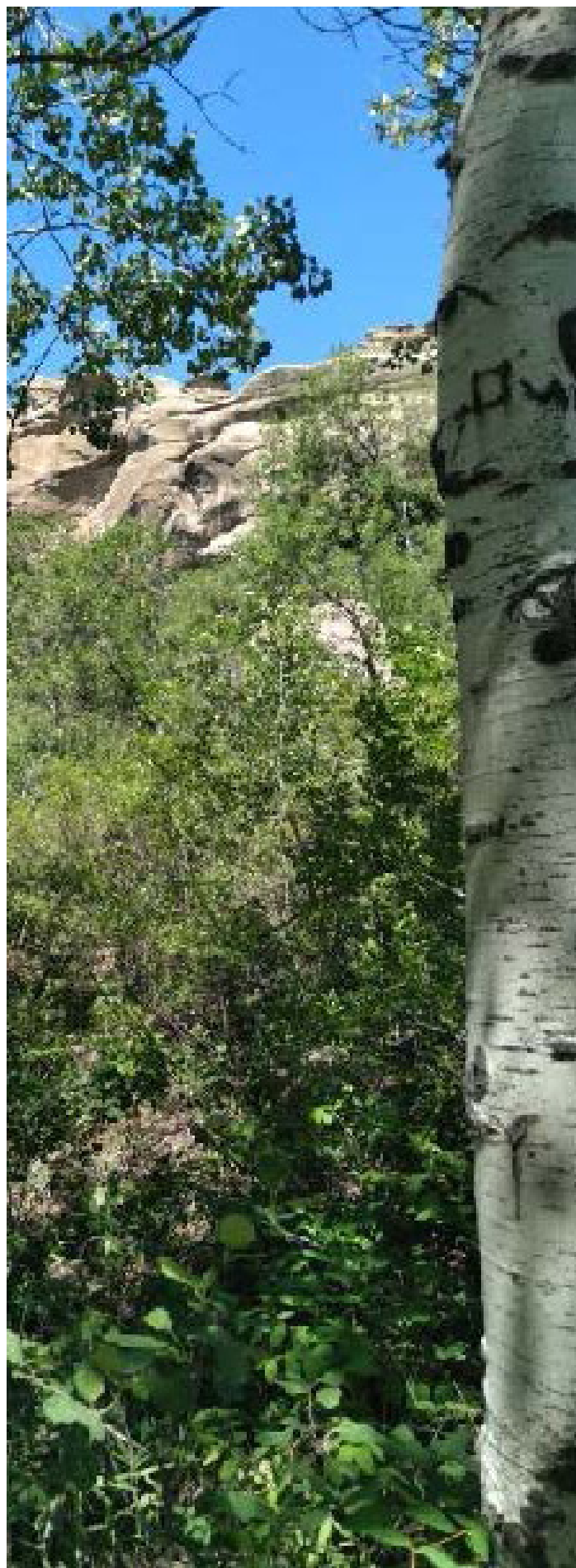
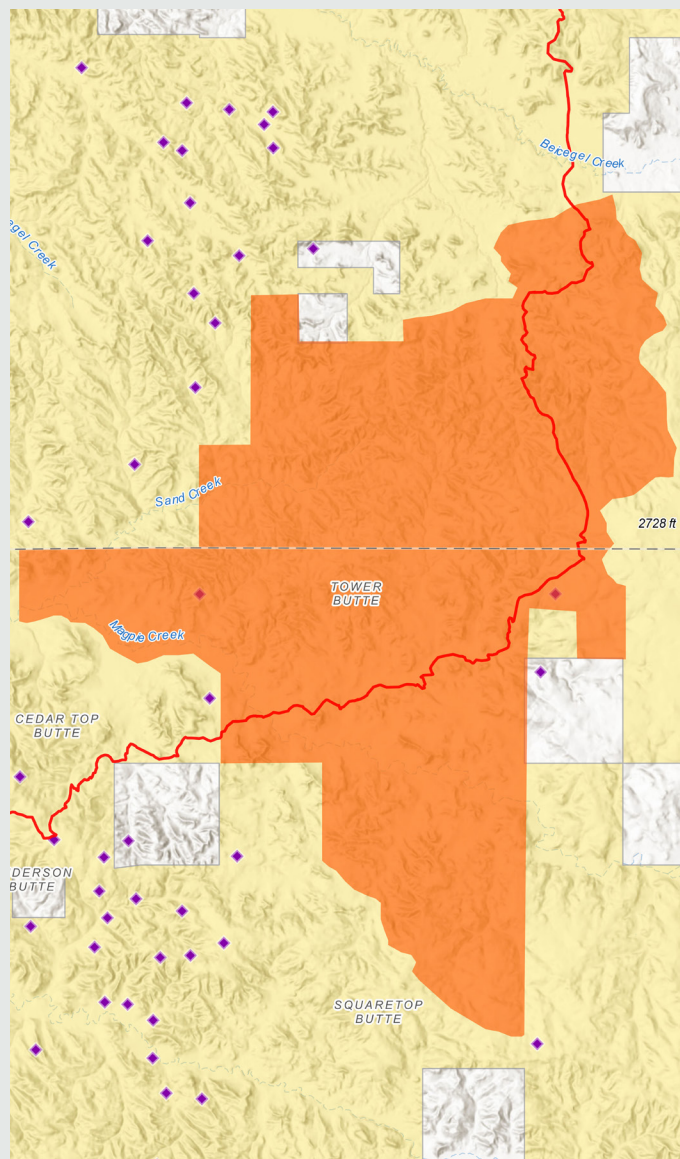


4. Magpie

The Magpie unit is bisected by 10 miles of the Maah Daah Hey Trail, and gives visitors beautiful views of the Badlands and a variety of terrain, including ice caves. Pronghorn, mule deer, horned toads, prairie rattlesnakes, coyotes, jackrabbits and prairie dogs all hide in the region's varied landscape. The region is home to a wide variety of game species and is a destination location for backcountry hunters.

In the spring and summer there are a variety of wildflowers including the prairie rose, North Dakota's state flower, and a false sunflower, among others. The area may look tamer than some of the other units, but its subtle beauty can be appreciated by all.

The Magpie unit is managed for Non-Motorized Backcountry with No Surface Occupancy oil and gas development. The biggest threat is oil and gas development, particularly increased development along the edges of the unit due to presence of existing roads.



5. Mike's Creek

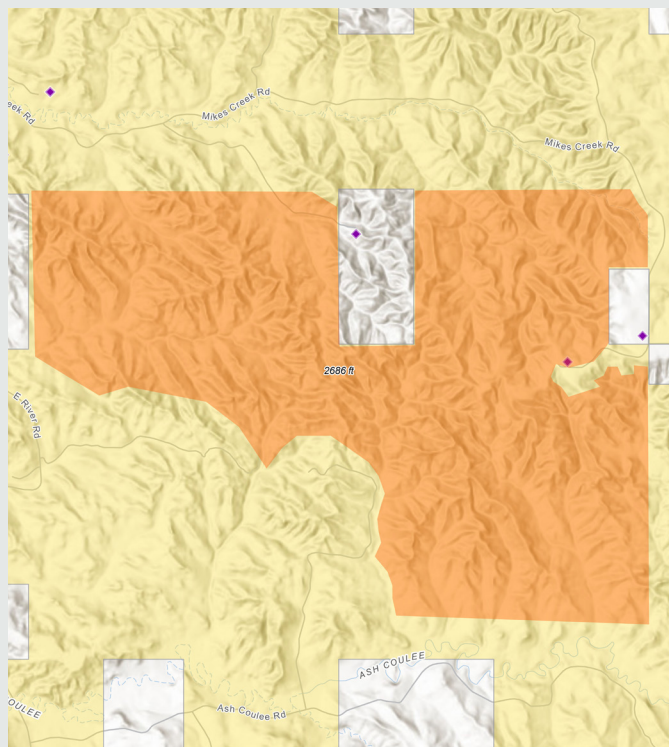
Mike's Creek lies within the Missouri Plateau physiographic region and includes Badlands and glaciated areas. Two major land-form features characterize Mike's Creek: An intermittent creek with ephemeral drainages and steep Badlands spine landforms.

Landforms in Mike's Creek contribute to a mosaic of habitats, including some of the most dense and extensive Rocky Mountain Juniper woodlands on the LMNG. These juniper woodlands occur on north-facing slopes created by rugged Badlands. Other vegetation includes big sagebrush, shadscale saltbrush, greasewood, silver sage and Western wheat-grass. Ecologically, vegetative health in Mike's Creek is considered good to excellent.

The Mike's Creek unit captures nearly an entire watershed and its associated drainages as the system begins high in a steep Badlands divide and flows down to the Little Missouri River. Few management activities have affected the quality of watershed processes or vegetative habitats associated with this drainage. Historical use of the area has been low, focused on hunting, hiking and grazing, but due to its remote and rugged characteristics these activities have been light.

Ash Coulee Creek flows through the unit. The stream is subject to extremely low flows during late summer and intermittency during drought conditions. Like most of the drainages of the Little Missouri River Watershed, Mike's Creek has suffered from oil and saltwater spills in the past. Monument designation would protect the stream from future spills.

The Mike's Creek unit is managed as Non-Motorized Backcountry with No Surface Occupancy oil and gas development. The biggest threats to the unit are oil and gas development, since roads now parallel both the north and south boundaries of the unit.



6. Twin Buttes

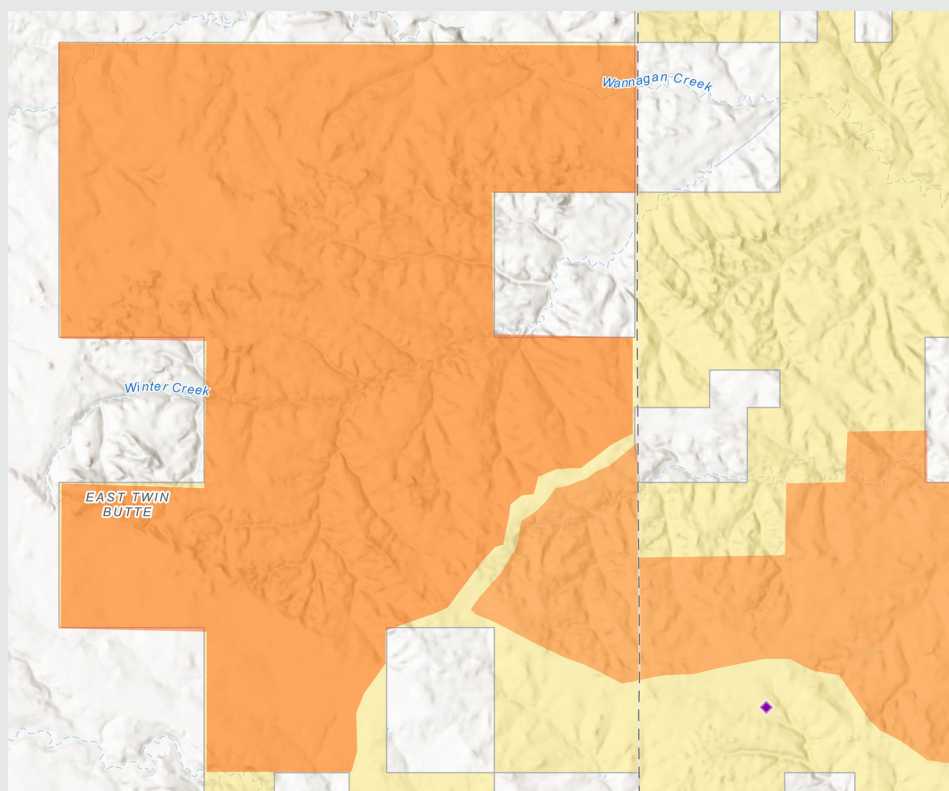
Twin Buttes' sporadic sandstone crowns expose striking hues of geologic deposits and produce an eerie environment. The magnificent hue and abrasiveness of the barren faces throughout the Badlands section make them appealing to recreationists. Petrified logs are common in the area; in one instance stream erosion has created a petrified log bridge.

The majority of the plants on the southern slopes are native grasses, along with yucca, sage, and cactus. Draws and the north slopes of the butte are sparsely covered in chokecherry, wild plum, cottonwood, juniper, and green ash trees. The western part is largely made up of broad, undulating grassland.

Pronghorn, mule deer, horned toads, prairie rattlesnakes, coyotes, jackrabbits, and prairie dogs all find refuge in the area's varied terrain. The area has a wide variety of game species, and the terrain is ideal for backcountry hunts evoking bygone eras.

Winter Creek's dendritic fingers descend from East Twin Butte's eastern flanks in a northeasterly direction toward Wannagan Creek and the Little Missouri River. A panoramic view is available from the peak of East Twin Butte.

Twin Buttes holds a special status as the only area in North Dakota ever recommended by the Forest Service for Wilderness designation. There are three known archaeological sites in the proposed unit. Twin buttes is managed as "Suitable for Wilderness". Major threats to the unit are theft of artifacts, fossils, and other paleontological resources, as well as oil and gas development around the unit.



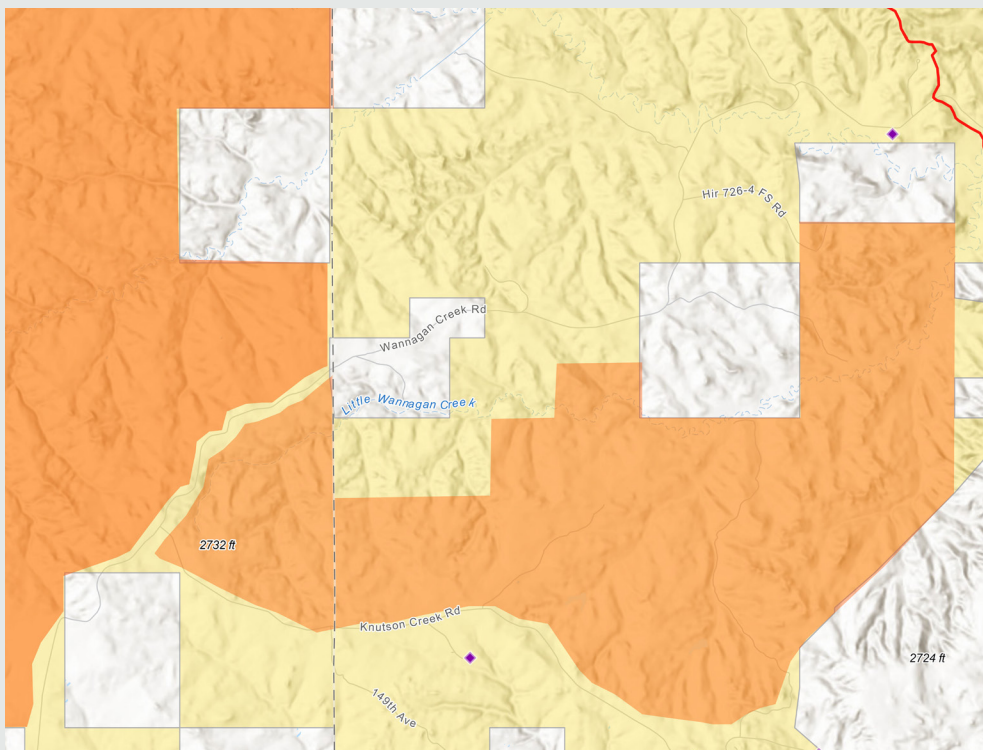
7. Wannagan

The Badlands of the Wannagan unit are rugged with few trees except for several low-lying areas near creeks. There are small hills with outcrops of sedimentary rocks which offer vast geological scenic and scientific value. The erosion of sedimentary rocks, in particular, yields a breathtaking vista. Wannagan's unique landscape forms an intricate maze of canyons, offering essential habitat for elk and mule deer. It is one of the few spots in the state where trophy quality elk are found on public land open for hunting.

Wannagan would serve as a natural extension to the existing petrified forest area in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and would enhance the activities and resources already available in the vicinity. There are 13 archaeological and two isolated artifact sites known to exist in this parcel. A known paleontological site rich in fossil

Borealosuchus, a crocodile-like creature, is located just outside the boundary of the unit, making it very likely that similar fossils are found within the unit.

The Wannagan unit is managed as Non-Motorized Backcountry with No Surface Occupancy oil and gas development. Oil and gas development, including horizontal drilling under the unit, pose the biggest threat to Wannagan as pump jacks are already present in the surrounding area, and roads exist near the southern, western, and northern boundaries of the unit.

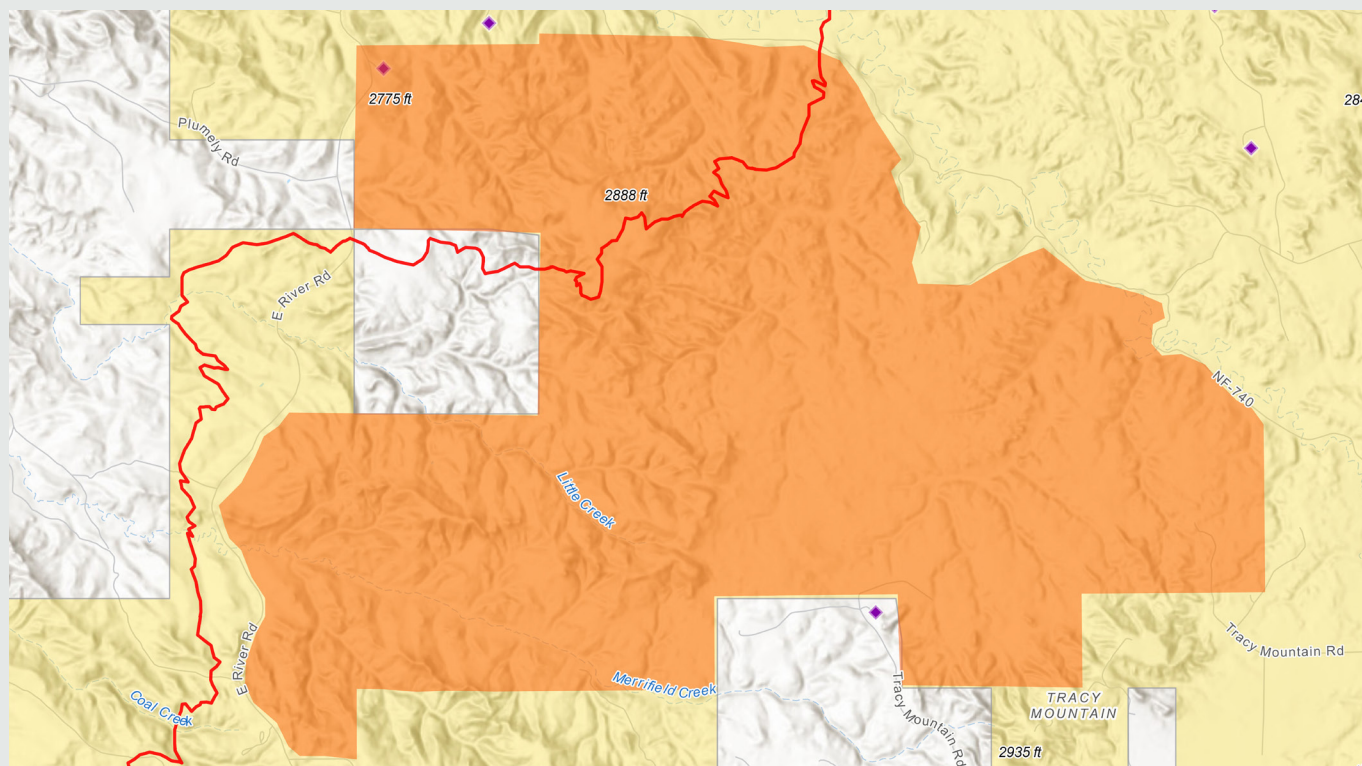


8. Plumely Draw

Plumely Draw is a wild environment of residual strata home to mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions, and numerous other non-game animals. Notably, the region remains a bighorn sheep stronghold.

The unit's prairie, butte, and wooded draw features all include seasonal wildflowers. Rocky Mountain Junipers can be found alone or in dense, moss-covered woods. They can also be found stunted and bending from holds atop enormous sandstone cap-rocks.

Plumely Draw is managed as Non-Motorized Backcountry with No Surface Occupancy oil and gas development. Existing roads almost surround the unit, making horizontal drilling very possible, and oil and gas development a major threat to the unit.



9. Kinley Plateau

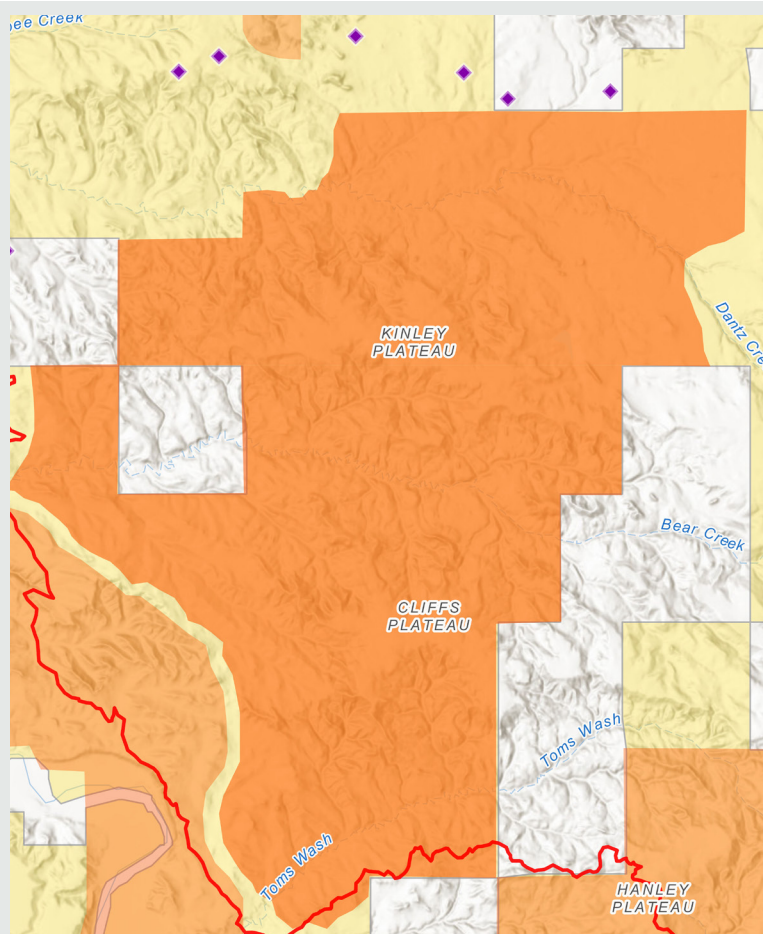
Kinley Plateau truly is the heart of the Badlands. The largest of the Forest Service's parcels managed as Suitable for Wilderness, it is situated in the southernmost portion of the LMNG and represents the diversity of the Badlands in its entirety.

The valleys of Tom's Wash, Dantz Creek, and its' bigger twin, Bear Creek, travel from east to west toward the valley of the Little Missouri River, and form the boundaries of this unusual triangle. Dantz Creek reveals an ancient geology with layers in blues, grays, whites, and reds, while roughly defining the northern limit of this region.

As flatlands to the east were sliced by Dantz Creek and Bear Creek millennia ago, the Kinley Plateau was carved out. From a steady track atop the rolling prairie, one can trek to the massive land-form's sheer western flank. Beyond is a tumultuous landscape of remnant strata inhabited by mule deer, elk, bobcat, and coyote, and countless other non-game species—a hunter and hiker's paradise. Notably, the area is a stronghold for bighorn sheep.

Seasonal wildflowers can be found on the prairie, butte, and woody draw features of the unit.

The Rocky Mountain Juniper— singly marking the landscape or in deep, moss-floored forests— also is found stunted, twisting from buffeted holds atop giant sandstone cap-rocks. Oil and gas development, particularly along the northern edges of the unit, are the biggest threats to Kinley Plateau



10. Bullion Butte

The remarkable characteristics of the Bullion Butte area include its vast size, its potential for solitude and its absence of roads other than simple two tracks. The abrupt cliffs and rock-strewn slopes of the butte are impressive and provide spectacular views of the southern portion of the Badlands. Few places in North Dakota offer such magnificent vistas.

The area is a toned-down version of the stark and rugged Badlands farther north. The top of the butte has an expansive, rolling-prairie surface with no trees. The edges and cliffs themselves are sandstone, and have historically been used as nesting habitat for raptors, especially bald and golden eagles.

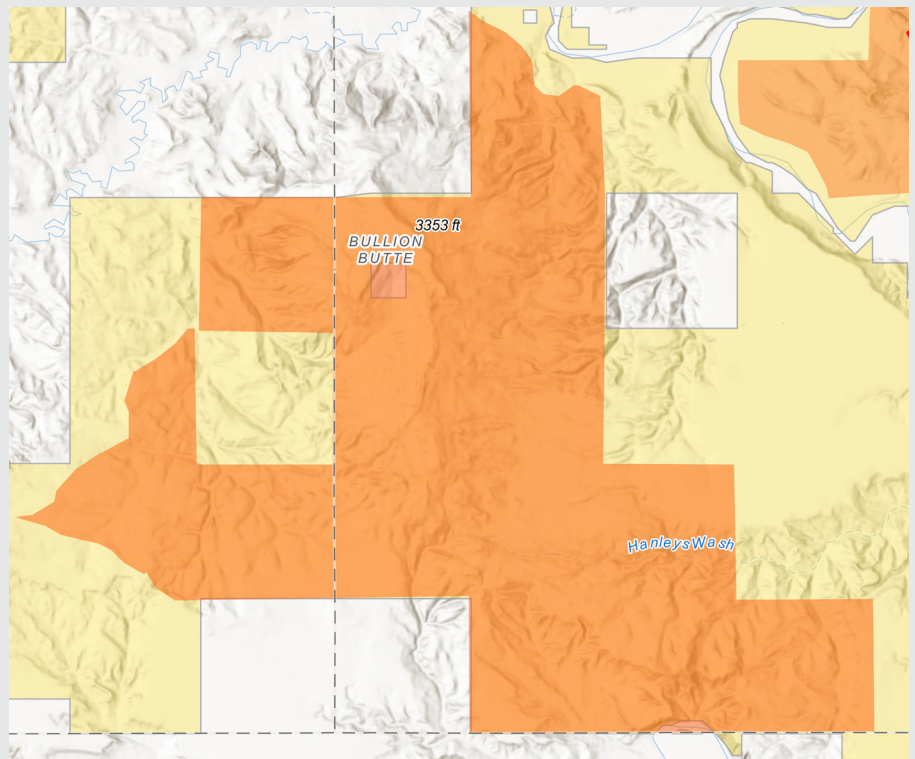
Opportunities to observe native North Dakota wildlife abound. Hawks, Bighorn Sheep, eagles and sharp-tailed grouse are plentiful. Bullion Butte's abundant population of trophy mule deer and pronghorn antelope make it a popular hunting destination.

The butte's many hills, valleys, woody draws, and other drainage areas, along with its size, makes for challenging backcountry hiking and offers solitude to the outdoor enthusiast.

From its large sandstone cliffs and boulder-scattered inclines to its grassy summit and juniper-forested northeast slope, the butte offers variety and challenge yet is accessible to the majority of hikers and horseback riders. The nearby stretch of the Little Missouri State Scenic River, the other major recreational feature, offers fishing and canoeing opportunities. Bullion Butte had the last known nesting of Peregrine Falcon in the Badlands in 1954.

There are 15 archaeological, six historical, and 20 isolated artifact sites known to exist within this proposed monument area.

The Forest Service currently manages Bullion Butte to protect its important wildlife habitat. Presently, hunting is the most common use of the area. Monument designation will have little if any impact on these uses. Bullion Butte is currently managed as "Suitable for Wilderness". Oil and gas development are a threat to the solitude, vistas and wildlife of the unit.



11. Ponderosa Pine

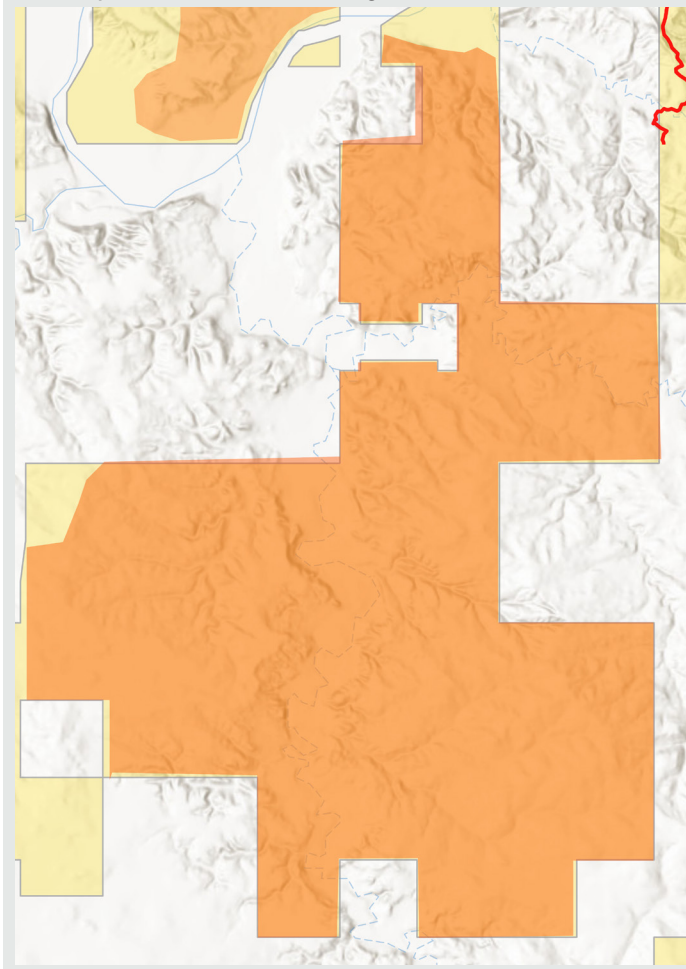
As the name suggests, the most outstanding feature of the Ponderosa Pine unit is the pines themselves, with some trees over 200 years old.

Through the heart of the area flows Sand Creek, its banks sprinkled with scoria outcroppings. It is the area of North Dakota most reminiscent of a western wilderness. The area's unique pine-laden scenery is not found elsewhere in the state, with the nearest major ponderosa pine stand growing hundreds of miles away in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The pine covered buttes and rolling prairie make for spectacular hiking, horseback riding, and hunting. Naturally burning coal veins are found in and around this unit. The Ponderosa Pine area is the only known nesting area in the state for Audubon's Warbler.

Most of the Ponderosa Pine unit is managed by the United States Forest Service for wildlife protection.

There are 13 archaeological, two historical and six isolated artifact sites known to exist in the proposed unit.

The Ponderosa Pine unit is managed for Non-Motorized Backcountry with No Surface Occupancy oil and gas development. Threats to the unit include oil and gas development with the existing roads on three sides.



IV. MAAH DAAH HEY LANDSCAPE

Description & Overall Condition

This highly dissected landscape was formed by water erosion of the soft silt or clay soil and collapse following lignite coal bed burnings. Badly eroded clay-scoria slopes, buttes, and steep canyons are common throughout.

Thickets of small trees and shrubs, woody draws of cottonwood, and green ash naturally occur on north or east facing escarpments. Bare hills with scattered Rocky Mountain juniper, and short grass prairie in the bottom-land and on top of buttes occur throughout the region. A few small, unique stands of native coniferous forest are present in specific areas. Ephemeral or intermittent streams are common in steep valleys. Recreation, and oil and gas activity are intensifying. The badlands are becoming extremely fragmented with the escalating number of roads required for industrial development. The United States Forest Services owns one million acres of land in this landscapes that it manages under the multiple-used mandate. The Badlands are a fragile landscape harboring many geological and fossil sites, as well as unique plant and wildlife species.

Geologic & Paleontological Value

Geology of the Badlands

Geologists use the term Badlands to describe regions characterized by eroded sedimentary rocks and rough topography. Badland regions are found world-wide. In the United States they are most common in Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Arizona and Nebraska.

North Dakota's Little Missouri Badlands (**Figure 3**), and similar lands in South Dakota's Badlands National Park, formed where they are primarily because the bedrock in those areas is composed of highly erodible terrestrial (continental as opposed to marine) sedimentary rocks. In North Dakota, these rocks include primarily the flat-lying Bullion Creek Formation and also the slightly younger Sentinel Butte Formation. Small amounts of the Golden Valley Formation may be present in a few places (**Figure 4**).

The rocks formed from river, stream, pond, lake, and swamp deposits during the Paleocene Epoch, 60-55 million years ago. The source of the sediment was the ancestral Rocky Mountains that had begun to develop at that time.

This highly dissected landscape was formed by water erosion of the soft silt or clay soil, and the collapse of soil layers following lignite coal bed burnings, a natural process which has been occurring for half a million years. Eroded clay-scoria slopes, buttes, and steep canyons are common throughout the region.

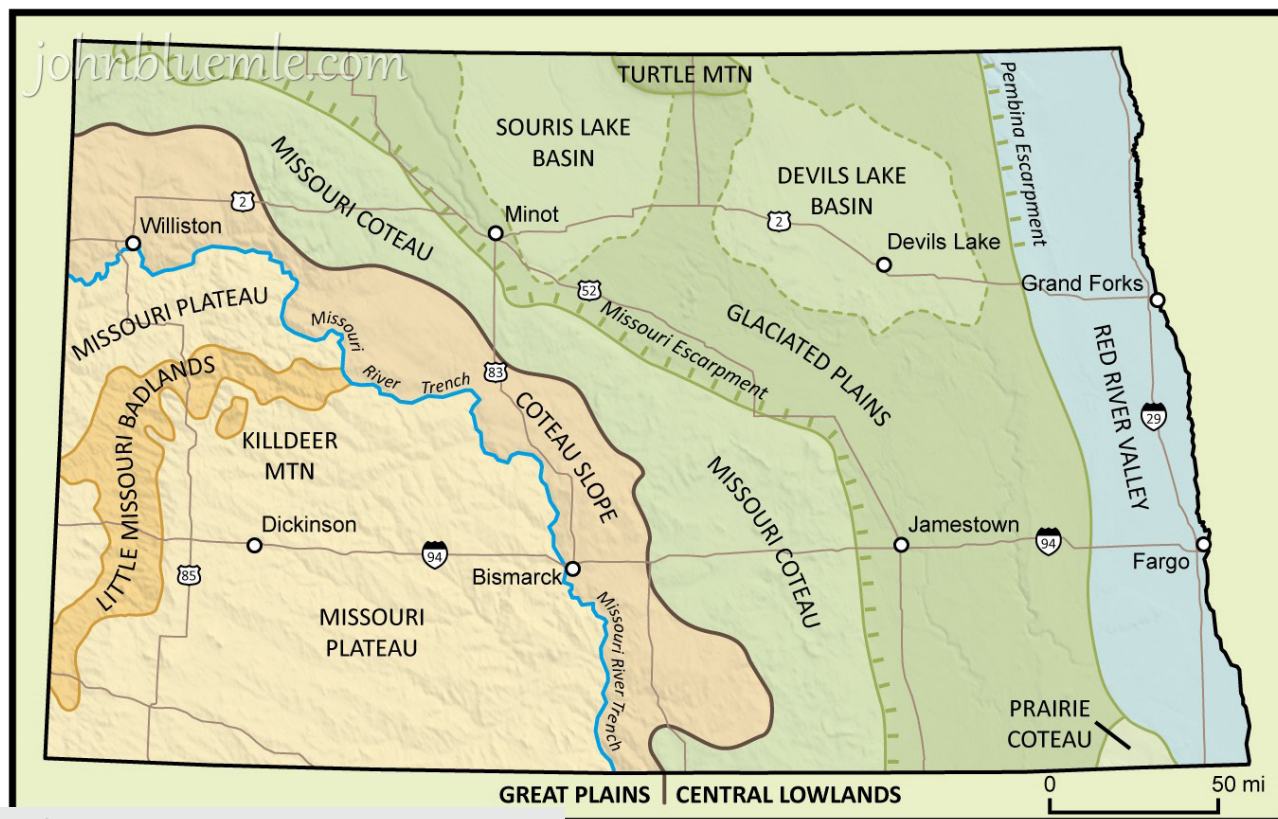


Figure 3: North Dakota's Little Missouri Badlands

The Badlands began eroding about half a million years ago as the ancestral Little Missouri River carved its way downward. This river and tributaries created the rough and rugged topography that is present. Rapid erosion continues today – sedimentary rock and sediment are removed at an estimated rate of 2 cm per year. Rock outcrops are confined to hills and slopes. Sand, gravel and various types of stream and slope deposits overlie the bedrock in low areas. Wind deposited silt (loess) forms a thin layer in many places, and glacial “erratics” are found in the northern part of the region. A volcanic ash/bentonite deposit also exists as a layer in the Sentinel Butte Formation in the north.

North Dakota Geological Survey
John P. Bluemle, State Geologist



Paleontological Values

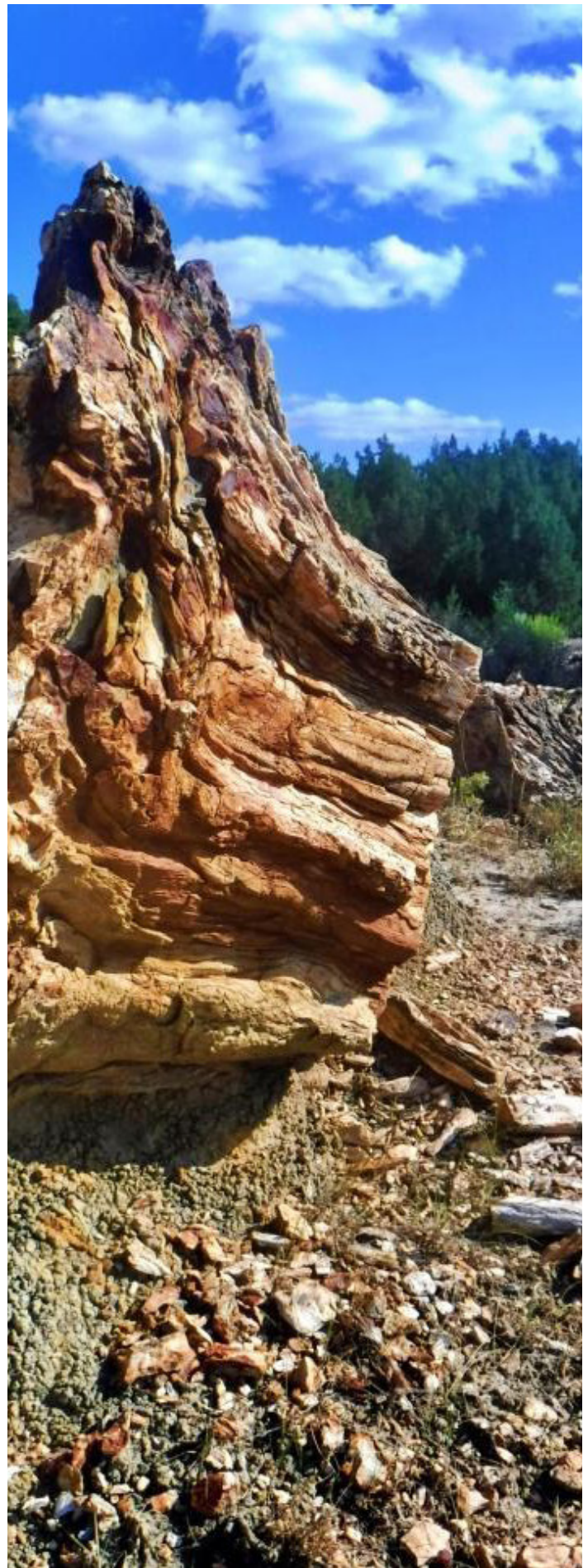
The North Dakota Badlands are known globally for their late Cretaceous fossils, particularly for Cretaceous-Paleogene (Cretaceous-Tertiary) boundary fossils. These fossils are located in time near the moment of the Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) asteroid mass extinction event, and are fossils of great scientific interest in the rising field of global ecological recovery post K-Pg.

Paleontologists have identified hundreds of fossil sites in Paleocene rocks of North Dakota's Badlands. The most common fossils are petrified wood, which is found in both the Sentinel Butte and Bullion Creek formations. It is most common in lower strata of the Sentinel Butte Formation. The land was heavily forested at the time that Sentinel Butte sediments were deposited and some of the petrified logs and stumps are huge – up to several meters in diameter. The paleontological consensus is that the trees were cedars, cypress, redwoods, or other conifers that were growing in swampy settings. The climate was hot, humid, and subtropical, similar to the southeast United States today. For the most part, however, specific tree species have not been identified.

Preserved freshwater snails, clams, mussels, and other mollusks are abundant, in some places forming beds of coquina. Rare insect fossils are cataloged from a few places. Leaf fossils, including ferns and ginkgoes, are widespread, and fossilized seeds, twigs, and roots are also known.

Vertebrate fossils have been recovered from many sites, most from the Sentinel Butte Formation. The most common are fossilized champsosaurs (ancient crocodile-like animals) remains. Some true crocodile and alligator fossils have also been found. Complete skeletons, up to four meters long, are rare, but vertebrae are common. Other vertebrate fossils include turtles, fish, and salamanders. A few, rare, mammal fossil fragments have been identified as deriving from a lemur-like animal, and fossil bison bones are common in young sediments.

The Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 2009 specifies that any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth should be protected from disturbance and destruction. Protection of the paleontological resources of the area would be enhanced by monument designation. Future paleontological exploration near the proposed monument area, particularly the Hell Creek Formation, found just southwest of the Ponderosa Pine unit in the LMNG, could yield groundbreaking paleontological discoveries.



Wildlife Values

The western North Dakota Badlands, formed by time, weather, water, and other factors, are most renowned for their untamed beauty, which is unique to the region. But there are animals, sturdy critters that are specially adapted to the environment that call this land home. Elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep and mountain lion are mammals which rely on the intact and undisturbed habitat of the proposed monument area. The areas in the proposed monument are home to several declining grassland dependent bird species including the Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Long-billed Curlew, Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Brewer's Sparrow.

Declining woodland bird species include the Black-billed Cuckoo, Western Meadowlark, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Less often observed species such as horned lizards, rattlesnakes and bats are also found in their respective ecosystems. These animals are as much a part of the badlands as the sagebrush flats, painted hillsides and cedar-choked draws.

Threatened, Endangered, & Candidate Species

The following threatened, endangered, and candidate species are found in the proposed monument area. Habitat conservation is the primary need for most of these species; monument status will provide permanent habitat conservation, thus assisting with species preservation and recovery.

Endangered

- **Northern Long Eared Bat:** There is recent evidence that bats overwinter in caves in the badlands. These sites are susceptible to human and other types of disturbance. Frequent disturbance may cause females to drop young in the rearing process or abandon the area.
- **Dakota Skipper Butterfly:** Includes critical habitat in the northern part of the monument area. The loss of native prairie is the primary cause for the Dakota Skippers decline. The northern units in the proposed monument include critical habitat for the species.

Candidate

- **Monarch Butterfly:** Since the 1990s the eastern population has declined by approximately 80%. Loss of milkweed habitat on summer grounds is a primary concern. The proposed monument falls directly in the migratory path of the monarch.

Forest Service Sensitive Species in the Proposed Monument Area

The following 13 species are considered sensitive species in the proposed monument area:

Bald Eagle, Bighorn Sheep, Burrowing Owl, and Greater Sage-Grouse have stipulations in place in the current management plan to help manage the species habitat from oil and gas development activities.

The remaining sensitive species may be managed using proposed mitigation measures if and where appropriate. These species include Baird's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, Long Billed Curlew, Sprague's Pipit, Black Tailed Prairie Dog, Ottoe Skipper, Regal Fritillary, Tawny Crescent, Western Meadowlark, and the Northern Redbelly Dace.



Northern Long Eared Bat



Dakota Skipper Butterfly



Monarch Butterfly

V. AREA USE

Monument Landscape Threats

There are a number of threats to the proposed monument. The main three primary threats include:

- Oil development, gas development, and associated infrastructure
- Development of new roads and the expansion of existing roads
- Non-Surface Occupancy drilling potentially increases oil and gas development at the edges of the seven Non-Motorized Backcountry units

Oil and gas development is the biggest threat to the landscape because the boundaries of the proposed monument are surrounded by oil and gas wells and associated infrastructure.

Nearly 75% of the LMNG has already been leased for oil and gas development. With the 2020 "Oil and Gas Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement" to the LMNG Plan Management Plan of 2002, even more land surrounding both the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the proposed monument will potentially be leased for oil and gas exploration, further putting the proposed monument at risk. The addition of Non-Surface Occupancy (ie Horizontal Drilling) to the units managed as Non-Motorized Backcountry opened up thousands of acres to development; the increased infrastructure for this drilling will be just outside the units and will be detrimental to the units.

Road construction and expansion is a threat mainly because the oil and gas industry and local officials have been publicly advocating for various road and bridge projects, as well as road expansions to promote more oil and gas development in the surrounding region.

The direct impacts of oil and gas development on the area have resulted in increased pollution (from flares and spills from oil wells and associated infrastructure), disruption of the dark night skies, and the disruption of animal migration routes. The seven parcels within the proposed Maah Daah Hey National Monument which are managed as Non-Motorized Recreation were opened up for potential horizontal drilling (NSO) in the 2020 Oil and Gas Supplemental EIS.

The indirect impacts of oil and gas development to the areas surrounding the proposed monument include the associated infrastructure for the oil and gas industry. This infrastructure includes mainly roads, pipelines, a proposed oil refinery, and water infrastructure. This associated infrastructure increases emissions, takes away from the primitive and wild nature of the Badlands, puts the Badlands at risk for pipeline spills, and lastly depletes its scarce water resource, the Little Missouri River.



Image by National Parks Conservation Association via Flickr: Oil pad access roads three miles south of the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota

Impacts from Oil/Gas Development

Oil/Gas Drilling & Associated Construction



The construction of oil wells and the process of fracking creates a physical disturbance to the landscape both during and after the construction and fracking processes. This disturbance manifests in the following ways:

- Temporary and long term roads to access the well site
- Well pads that take acreage out of natural prairie
- The fracking process causes noise pollution (a low hum) that impacts wildlife, recreation users, and adjacent landowners

Flaring from Oil/Gas Wells



Oil and gas wells surround the proposed monument boundaries. Beyond the physical disturbances caused by oil wells, one of other major impacts to the environment from oil and gas wells is flaring, or the intentional burning of natural gas as a waste product. Flaring causes degradation of air quality and also ruins view-sheds due to the fact that many flares look like giant Olympic flames burning across the prairie. Flares can often be seen by the naked eye from miles away and impact stargazing.

Fracking Water Depots



The process of fracking also requires a vast amount of water to be used, much of it locally sourced. As a result, in the area around the proposed monument there are several water depots that have been constructed along the Little Missouri River in order to get water needed to frack oil wells. Water depots disturb the pristine nature of the area by creating hubs where water trucks come to draw water to transport to well sites. Like oil wells, water depots create an incompatible land use with the surrounding area by bringing in trucks and other equipment necessary to access the water. In addition, water depots deplete the already water scarce area surrounding the proposed monument.

Pipelines



There are multiple pipelines transporting oil, gas, and waste water throughout the Little Missouri Grasslands adjacent to the proposed monument. If pipelines are allowed within the proposed monument, impacts to the pristine area would be all but inevitable. This is because pipelines from the oil and gas industry carrying oil, gas, and wastewater (saltwater) fail and spill. Spills can have detrimental effects on the landscape.

Specifically, oil pipelines pose the risk of an oil spill, which could permanently damage the surrounding land and water. Gas pipelines pose the risk of leaking raw methane into the atmosphere if ruptured, which is bad for air quality, and contributes greatly to climate change. Like other pipelines, saltwater or wastewater pipelines also present the potential for spills. Spills from saltwater pipelines can result in forever degraded soils, and highly contaminated waterways. This is because the waste water or saltwater that comes up from Bakken oil wells not only contains high levels of salts (several magnitudes saltier than sea water), it also contains radioactive elements that make it dangerous from a public health standpoint. Saltwater spills are especially dangerous if the spill leaches into a waterway or groundwater source that is used for drinking water or pasture water.

Saltwater Disposal Wells



The last direct oil and gas industry threat to the proposed monument are saltwater disposal wells. Saltwater disposal wells are wells that are used by the oil industry to dispose of saltwater or wastewater.

Like pipelines, saltwater disposal wells tend to fail spectacularly. For example, a landowner in Bottineau County North Dakota lost productivity on his farm land due to several associated spills from a saltwater disposal well located on his land. In addition, saltwater disposal wells tend to get struck by lightning and as a result pose a risk for fires, which in dry conditions can create large grass fires.



Proposed Oil Refinery Near Proposed Monument Parcels



Less than 15 miles from two proposed monument parcels (Plumely Draw and Kinley Plateau) is the proposed Davis Refinery site. The proposed refinery, if constructed will increase air pollution as well as be a visual disturbance for parcels within the proposed monument. The proposed refinery currently has the majority of its North Dakota permits, which would allow the developer to commence construction at any point. Presently, the company developing the refinery is in financial trouble, so it is unlikely the proposed refinery will be built soon. In addition, the economics for refinery do not make sense under current market conditions. Despite these factors, it is still possible for the present developer to transfer its permits to another developer when it makes financial sense to develop the refinery. As a result, the construction of a refinery just outside the proposed monument is a persistent threat.

Impacts from Road Expansion

Highway 85 Expansion



There is a long-standing proposal to expand Highway 85 into a four-lane divided highway. This is a specific concern where it passes through the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the scenic Little Missouri River valley, and the Lone Butte and Long X Divide units of this proposal. Not only will a 4-lane highway increase traffic speed, it will further impede and block migratory movement of wildlife. A new bridge was recently constructed across the Little Missouri River which included a wildlife crossing design. This monument proposal will give added impetus to the DOT to do everything possible to protect these sensitive areas and the wildlife within them.

Section Line Road Development



For decades several Western North Dakota counties as well as the State of North Dakota have asserted that they have the right pursuant to North Dakota law to develop section lines as roads within the LMNG. In 2012, the State of North Dakota and four western counties (Billings, Slope, Golden Valley, and McKenzie) filed suit against the federal government, claiming that they have the right, pursuant to ND state law, to build roads on all section lines within the LMNG, jeopardizing the integrity of the Inventoried Road less and Suitable for Wilderness areas many of which are included in the proposed monument. After 10 years of litigation the courts ruled that the state and counties do not have the right to develop section lines as roads within the LMNG. Despite the court victory, this issue will likely come back because there has been a long-standing push by the state and western counties to have more control over the LMNG.

Little Missouri Bridge



Another road-related threat to the proposed monument would be the construction of another bridge crossing the Little Missouri River. Presently there are no bridges crossing the Little Missouri River in the northern portions of the badlands other than the Long X Bridge that is a part of Highway 85. Another crossing would likely increase oil and gas development on the western side of the Little Missouri River, while also increasing truck traffic in areas surrounding the monument. A recent proposal for a bridge failed, largely due to litigation and also because Billings County failed to secure a \$12.3 million grant from the United States Department of Transportation. Despite the recent failed effort to construct a bridge across the Little Missouri, it is likely that proponents of a Little Missouri bridge are continuing to lobby for another bridge across the river.



2022 Archeology Southwest Report

In 2022, Archeology Southwest, in conjunction with The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, produced a report which detailed the five National Parks under the greatest threat. Theodore Roosevelt National Park was one of the five parks in the report. The Introduction describes accurately the situation surrounding the Park and the Non-motorized areas of the Maah Daah Hey National monument proposal. The introduction of the report states:

"America's national parks and monuments protect some of our most treasured and irreplaceable cultural resources. They preserve our collective history, which, on the North American continent, stretches back thousands of years, and provide an opportunity to apply the lessons of the past to the present. Our national parks and monuments also include the ancestral homelands for scores of Tribal nations, many of which remain strongly connected to sacred sites and cultural landscapes that are found in today's parks and monuments."

"To honor and protect our diverse and shared heritage, America's national parks and monuments must be preserved and protected to the maximum extent possible. But the presence of oil and gas development on their doorstep is a stark threat to their long-term protection. Development can destroy archaeological sites and turn sacred spaces and cultural landscapes that tell the story of modern-day Tribes into industrial zones. Like so many extractive activities, oil and gas development also disproportionately impacts communities of color, including Tribal communities that are close to national parks and monuments."

"This threat to our cultural legacy came to a head during the Trump administration, which focused on achieving 'energy dominance' and enacting 'industry-first' policies. These policies eliminated important safeguards designed to ensure cautious and well-managed oil and gas leasing and development and led directly to several leasing proposals in close proximity to several national parks and monuments, including Chaco Canyon and Hovenweep, both of which have long standing importance to many Tribal communities. But this threat did not originate with the Trump administration; the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has traditionally defaulted to opening public lands to oil and gas development, including lands surrounding national parks and monuments."

"But there is hope that our national parks and monuments will finally receive the protection they need and deserve, as the Biden administration has promised to reform the federal oil and gas program. Through this effort, the administration has an historic opportunity to uphold its commitment to protecting the ancestral homelands and sacred sites of Tribes under Executive

Order 13985 and other legal authorities. This Executive Order calls for the Federal government to advance racial equity and support for under-served communities, which the Biden administration can do by protecting the relationship Tribes have with many national parks and monuments, as these places continue to provide resources, identity, and spiritual wholeness for many Tribes and Tribal members."

A link to the full Southwest Archeology report is included in the appendix to this proposal. The proposed Maah Daah Hey National Monument will be a step toward preserving the sacred sites and cultural landscapes of the area.

VI. CONCLUSION

Millions of years of sedimentary build up and erosion have created the distinctive and untamed landscape of the North Dakota Badlands. The region has been inhabited by Native American tribes for over 11,000 years. Native Americans used this area in the past for spirit quests, prayer, hunting, eagle trapping, and other purposes. For several Native American tribes in North Dakota, especially the MHA Nation, the Badlands remain a sacred area. MHA members still visit the Badlands for rituals and to make connections with their past.

The Maah Daah Hey Trail, a popular multi-use path that traverses 144 miles of the North Dakota Badlands, is the highlight of the region that connects the landscapes' history to present day. In the Mandan language, the phrase Maah Daah Hey refers to a grandfather who is enduring.

The landscape has long been inhabited by native people. The area in the proposed monument is under massive threat from development. Oil and gas wells and their associated infrastructure continue to invade some of the wildest places in North Dakota. The proposed national monument would bring permanent conservation of 139,729 acres of the North Dakota Badlands along and near the Maah Daah Hey Trail.

The United States Forest Service has been managing the land inside the proposed monument as road-less zones. The site will remain permanently devoid of roads according to the proposed Gap 2 monument classification. The monument will also preserve the region's strong ranching heritage and numerous recreational opportunities, such as hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, and hiking. The proposed monument will, above all else, recognize the MHA people's long connection to the area and permanent protection of their ancestral lands.

VII. CLOSING

Acknowledgments

K&I in partnership with the North Dakota Chapter of the Sierra Club commit to the protection of North Dakota's outdoors, wild lands, and natural resources. K&I acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their efforts in the continued protection of North Dakota.

- Calvin Grinnell
- Gerard Baker
- Michael Knopik
- Trevor Hopkins

Appendices

Appendix 1

Link to the 2001 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Dakota Prairie Grassland Northern Region:

- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/dpg/landmanagement/?cid=stelprdb5340280&width=full>

Appendix 2

"Prairie Legacy Wilderness Act of 2012" proposal for a draft bill.

Appendix 3

Link to Archeology Southwest report 2022.

- <https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/pdf/Americas-Cultural-Legacy-At-Risk.pdf>

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Supporters

Government

- Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation
- Standing Rock Sioux
- Spirit Lake Nation

Organizational

- American Rivers
- Dakota Resource Council
- North Dakota Wildlife Federation
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Badlands Conservation Alliance
- Sierra Club North Dakota Chapter
- Burleigh County Bicycle Cult
- Dakota Cyclery
- Laughing Sun Brewery
- Atypical Brewery & Barrelworks

Individual

- Lisa Finley-Deville
State Representative
- Jim Fuglie
Former ND Tourism Director
- Tracy Potter
Former State Senator
- April Fairfield
Former State Senator
- Valerie Naylor
Former TRNP Superintendent
- Tweed Roosevelt
Great Grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt