

HERITAGE AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

A number of heritage properties on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest are managed for unusually significant prehistoric, historic, cultural and aesthetic values. While many of the heritage properties are significant in a local and regional context, the following are significant in a broadly regional or national context:

Nee Me Poo National Historic Trail - The route of Chief Joseph's non-treaty Nez Perce during the Nez Perce War of 1877.

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail - The route traversed by the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806 on their way to and from the mouth of the Columbia River.

Lemhi Pass National Historic Landmark - A pivotal point for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The point at which representatives of the U.S. government first crossed the Continental Divide. And the point at which the explorers realized the full magnitude of the difficulties of reaching the west coast from the Continental Divide.

Monument Ridge-Black Butte Archaeological District – Remnants of prehistoric aboriginal sites dating back to the Paleo-Indian Period. Black Butte may qualify as a Traditional Cultural Property for some Indian people.

Birch Creek CCC Camp – Established in 1935 it is one of the best examples of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp remaining in the United States. Seven of the original 15 structures remain.

Canyon Creek Charcoal Kilns – Constructed in 1881 by the Hecla Consolidated Mining Company these brick bee-hive shaped charcoal kilns were used to produce charcoal for the blast furnaces at Glendale, Montana, which reduced silver and lead ore from the Hecla mining district to bullion. The bullion was shipped by rail road to Omaha, Nebraska for further refining.

Elkhorn-Coolidge Historic Mining District - An early 20th century company mining town and an excellent example of industrial mining development not located in major mining centers like Butte, Montana. Coolidge is one of the largest ghost towns in southwestern Montana. The area is on the [National Register of Historic Places](#).

Montana-Southern Railroad Grade - The Montana-Southern Railroad transported ore from the Elkhorn Mine in the Elkhorn-Coolidge historic mining district. The railroad grade ran from the town of Coolidge to Divide, Montana more than 40 miles distant. The railroad was constructed in 1914 in conjunction with other development work at Coolidge by the Boston-Montana Mining Company. It is an outstanding example of early 20th century railroad design and construction methods in mountainous terrain.

Allen and McCune Flumes - These large wooden water flumes were used to float cord wood from harvest areas near Mount Haggin to landings near Anaconda, Montana. Constructed by William R. Allen and A. W. McCune in the late 19th century, these two flumes supplied mine timbers for use in the underground mines of Butte and cord wood for the smelter in Anaconda. Some 50 miles of flume have been identified.

The Park-to-Park Highway - This early 20th century automobile road represents an attempt to promote increased tourism in the United States. It was intended to bring tourists from the mid-west and east to Yellowstone National Park and later to Glacier National Park. The Park-To-Park Highway represents an excellent example of mountain road design and construction methods as practiced in 1914.

Vision Quest Sites - A number of these Indian spiritual sites have been identified. They represent locations where Indian men sought assistance from spirit helpers who gave them various powers necessary to lead a successful and prosperous life.

Pictograph Sites - More than 10 rock art sites have been identified. Interpreted in several ways, some likely represent records of successful Vision Quests. They are considered sacred sites by some American Indians and important cultural resources by most Indian people as well as scholars.

Conical Timbered Lodges - These small timber structures likely represent shelters used by Proto-historic and Historic period Indians hunting or traveling through the area. They are usually attributed to the Shoshone tribe in our area. Their fragile nature and the fact that they have survived for over 100 years make them a unique class of cultural site.

Lithic Scatters - These archaeological sites represent stone tool manufacture and use by prehistoric peoples. Sizes range from a few flakes to extensive areas with stone tools and hundreds of stone flakes representing various stages in stone tool manufacture. They are the most common prehistoric site type on the Forest. While some are individually significant, all lithic scatters have interpretive potential beyond what may be apparent at a local scale. Strong inferences regarding the evolution of settlement patterns can be developed from the systematic examination of region-wide occupational debris.

Cultural Landscapes - A relatively new class of heritage property, cultural landscapes are geographic areas associated with an historic event, activity or person, or that exhibit other cultural or aesthetic values. Several of these landscapes have been identified and represent cultural resources of growing importance. Potential cultural landscapes include Monument Ridge, Black Butte, Mount Baldy, Medicine Lodge Peak, Medicine Lodge Pass-Upper Sheep Creek Basin, Gibbons Pass-Trail Creek, Lemhi Pass-Trail Creek, Lake Abundance saddle, the upper Ruby River drainage, the upper Grasshopper Valley north of highway 287, and Horse Prairie.

Traditional Cultural Properties - A traditional cultural property is a place significant for its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community's history and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural

identify of the community. One such area has been identified by American Indians and doubtless more of this important heritage property type will be identified by Indians or other cultural groups in the future.

Archaeological survey acres and number of heritage sites recorded by landscape

Landscapes	Linear Survey Acres*	Area Survey Acres	Percent Landscapes Surveyed	Prehistoric Sites**	Historic Sites	Total Heritage Sites
Big Hole	2,340	14,307	1.8%	17	81	98
Boulder River	2,214	5,981	1.7%	52	343	395
Clark Fork-Flints	3,718	11,135	1.5%	25	382	407
Gravelly	2,446	9,924	0.6%	87	33	120
Jefferson River	3,168	4,119	0.9%	61	102	163
Lima Tendoy	1,531	4,802	0.6%	77	26	103
Madison	351	330	0.2%	6	1	7
Pioneer	2,511	17,015	2.0%	68	189	257
Tobacco Roots	590	3,873	0.8%	32	99	131
Upper Clark Fork	959	2,782	1.4%	9	91	100
Upper Rock Creek	1,785	3,086	1.2%	21	122	143
Totals	21,613	77,353	10.9%	455	1469	1924***

* Roads, trails, pipelines, etc.

** Heritage sites with both prehistoric and historic cultural components were counted as prehistoric sites.

*** There are an additional 143 heritage sites outside but near enough to the Forest boundary to be affected by Forest management actions.