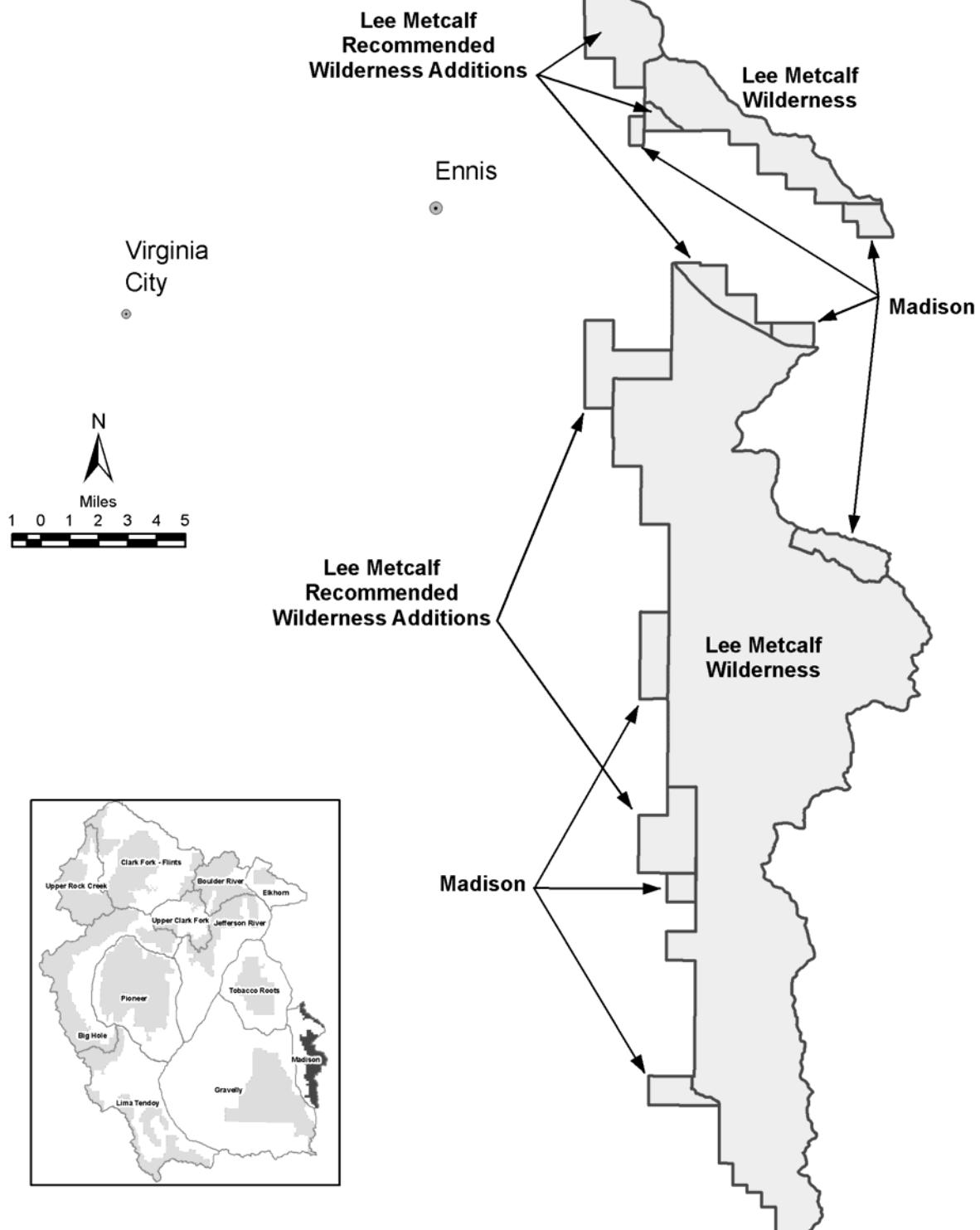


## Madison Landscape Management Areas



## MADISON LANDSCAPE

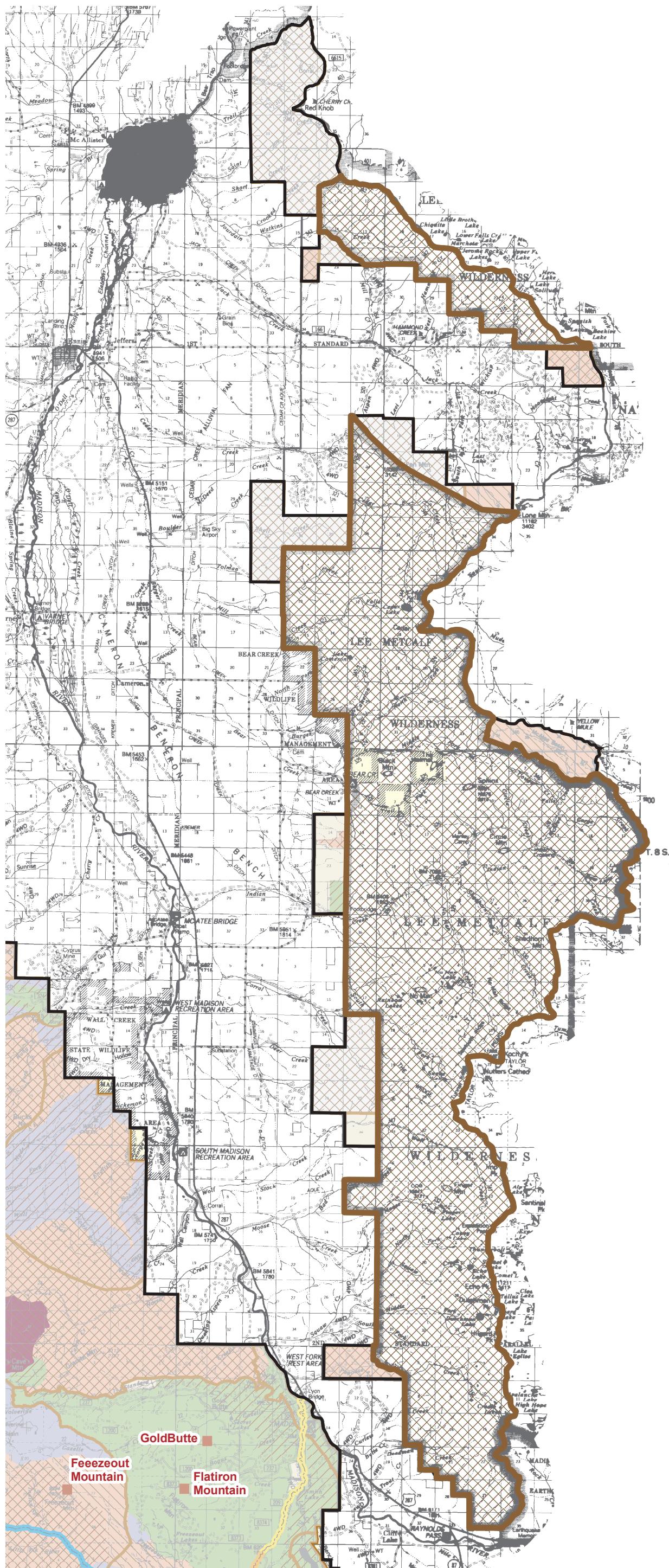
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The BDNF portion of the Madison Landscape includes two pieces of land along the west-facing slope of the Madison Range from Bear Trap Canyon on the north to Quake Lake on the south. Distinctive peaks of the Madison Range forms the scenic backdrop above the Madison Valley. Though the area is narrow it contributes a wealth of mountain vegetation, high lakes, and the distinctive Sphinx and Helmet Mountains. Streams flow into the Madison River, a world-renowned and regionally important class one trout stream.

The Madison Range is part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Large blocks of secure habitat for wildlife characterize the landscape. Species such as wolves, elk, and grizzly bears move freely to and from Yellowstone Park via the Madison Range. Goats, bighorn sheep, wolverine, mountain lions and other fauna find a home in this landscape as well. Wildlife also moves from the Madison Range to other parts of southwest Montana through stringers of riparian vegetation and timber found in Wolf Creek, Papoose Creek, and other areas.

Nearly all of the land managed by the BDNF in the Madison Range is in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The Wilderness is managed to retain the areas natural ecosystem parts and function and to provide challenging primitive recreation opportunities. Private land along the Jack Creek Road between Ennis and Big Sky splits the otherwise contiguous landscape.

Travelers to Yellowstone National Park on Highway 287 through the Madison Valley enjoy views of the Madison Range from the highway. Recreation use however, is less influenced by proximity to Yellowstone Park than its own wilderness character and accessibility. Hikers, climbers, or horseback riders find wild and primitive settings in this landscape with few social encounters. Summer use is moderate. Fall hunting has been heavy for decades. Winter use is light because roads to trailheads are closed by snow. Bear Creek is one of the more accessible areas where cross-country skiing is popular and winter activities like mountaineering and ice climbing are emerging. Motorized access on National Forest is confined to snowmobiling at McAtee Basin and Bear Creek Cabin.



## Lee-Metcalf Wilderness Management Area

- Forest Boundary
- Management Area Boundary
- Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
- National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails

### Travel Restrictions

- 98% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- 98% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed

### Recreation Allocations

- 2% Non-FS Inholding
- 98% Wilderness
- 0% Recommended Wilderness
- Summer**
- 0% Summer Non-motorized
- 0% Backcountry Recreation
- 0% Road-based
- 0% Wilderness Study Area

### Winter

- 0% Winter Non-motorized
- 0% Winter Motorized Recreation
- 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
- 0% Wilderness Study Area

### Key Watersheds

- 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
- 0% Restoration Key Waterheds

### Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers

- Eligible Wild Segments
- Eligible Scenic Segments
- Eligible Recreation Segments

### Communication Sites

- Existing
- Proposed

1 0.5 0 Miles

1:200,000

### Utility Rights of Way

- Forest Declared Corridor
- Existing Occupied Right-of-Way



## *Lee Metcalf Wilderness Management Area*

This area is managed to protect wilderness characteristics and values and provide primitive recreation with high levels of challenge and solitude.

Recreation takes place in a primitive to semi-primitive non-motorized setting guided by Wilderness regulations. The Lee Metcalf Wilderness, designated in 1983, includes parts of both the Gallatin and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests, and BLM lands. The wilderness is split on the north end by the Jack Creek drainage, which is privately owned and roaded. Development in close proximity to all sides of the wilderness increases management challenges.

This side of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness receives moderate recreation use in the summer. Sphinx Mountain, Bear Creek and Indian Creek trail systems attract most users. During fall hunting season, trailheads and campgrounds accessing the area are full of hunters traveling by foot or horseback. Winter use is light due to limited access to snow.

Prohibitions on motorized use contribute to important wildlife security in this area. Wildlife moves from Yellowstone, through the Madison Range to other parts of southwest Montana through stringers of riparian vegetation and timber in places like Wolf and Papoose creeks. The Hilgard area is in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Area.

### **Visitors may encounter**

Native vegetation changes only from fire or other natural events

Quiet natural landscapes and few visitors

Grizzly bears

Pack stock

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### **Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives**

Resolve inconsistent access and management with State land in Bear Creek

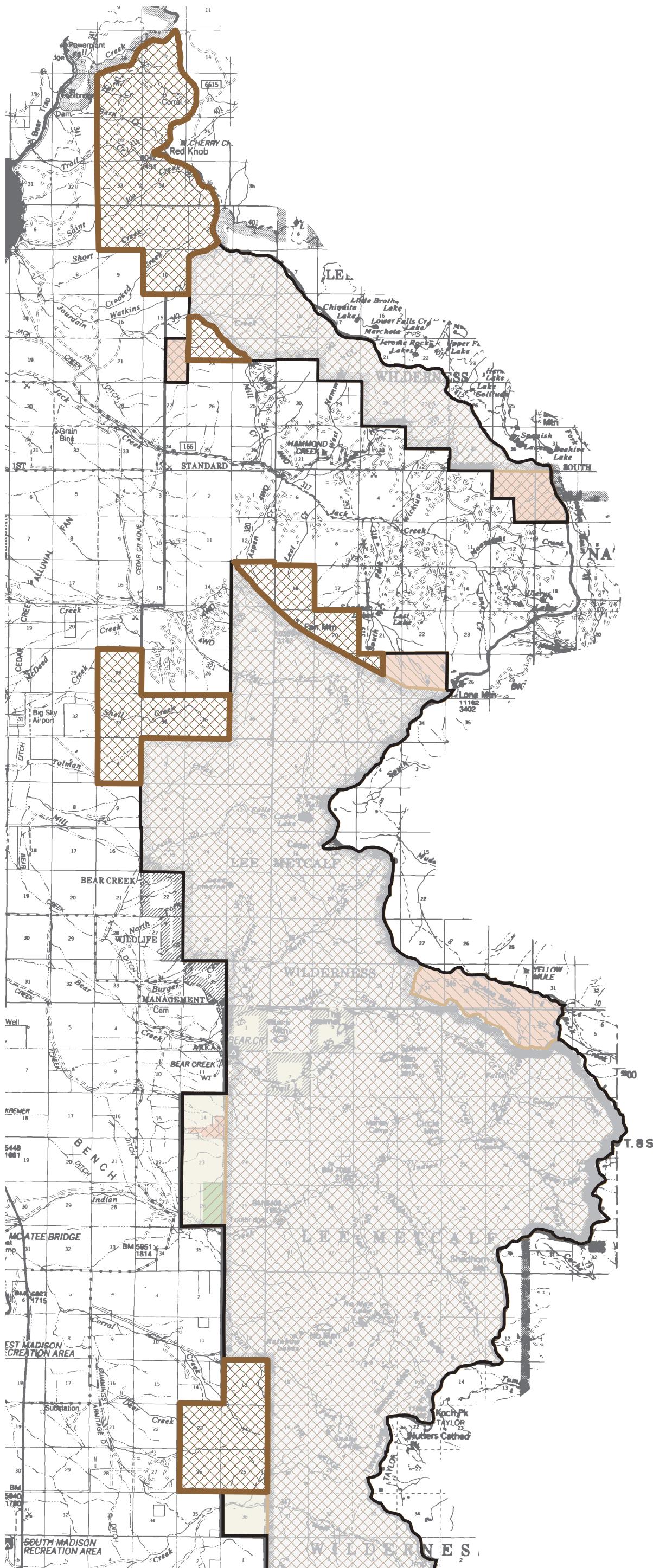
Improve access to the Wilderness at Indian and South Indian Creeks

Evaluate additional access between Indian Creek and Papoose Creek

### **Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards**

Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - Very High

The Lee Metcalf Wilderness Plan provides additional standards



## Lee-Metcalf Recommended Wilderness Additions Management Area

- Forest Boundary
- Management Area Boundary
- Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
- National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails

### Travel Restrictions

- 100% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- 100% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed

### Recreation Allocations

- 0% Non-FS Inholding
- 0% Wilderness
- 100% Recommended Wilderness
- Summer**
- 0% Summer Non-motorized
- 0% Backcountry Recreation
- 0% Road-based
- 0% Wilderness Study Area

### Winter

- 0% Winter Non-motorized
- 0% Winter Motorized Recreation
- 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
- 0% Wilderness Study Area

### Key Watersheds

- 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
- 0% Restoration Key Watersheds

### Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers

- Eligible Wild Segments
- Eligible Scenic Segments
- Eligible Recreation Segments

### Communication Sites

- Existing
- Proposed

1 0.5 0 1 2 Miles

1:150,000

### Utility Rights of Way

- Forest Declared Corridor
- Existing Occupied Right-of-Way



## *Lee Metcalf Recommended Wilderness Additions Management Area*

This area is managed to protect wilderness characteristics and values and to provide non-motorized recreation opportunities with high levels of challenge and solitude.

Recreation settings are semi-primitive non-motorized with wilderness characteristics.

Cowboy Heaven (Unit #1) lies between Bear Trap Canyon and the Spanish Peaks. Steep canyons and gentle ridge tops are accessed through two trailheads; the Bear Trap Canyon or a long trail from Spanish Creek.

The Jordain Unit (#2), Fan Mt. Unit (#3), Shell Creek Unit (#4) and Corral Creek Unit (#5) are isolated because access to these units is available only through the Wilderness.

The Papoose Bench Unit (#6) is easily accessible from Highway 287. This parcel contributes to elk winter range and spring elk calving habitat and links the Madison Range to the Gravelly Range.

### **Visitors may encounter**

Native vegetation changes only from fire or other natural events

Quiet natural landscapes and few visitors

Grizzly bears

Livestock

Backcountry hunting camps (Cowboy Heaven, Papoose Bench)

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### **Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives**

None

### **Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards**

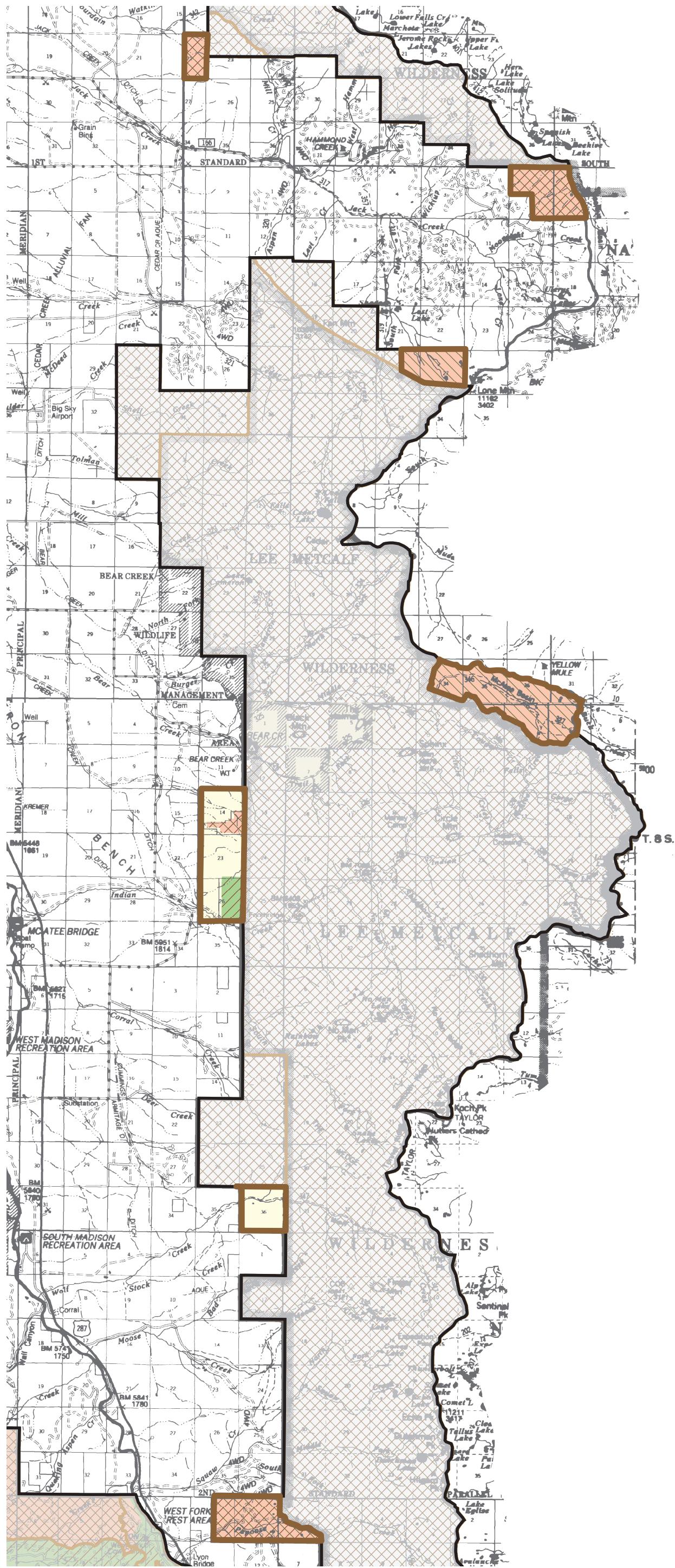
Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective – Very High

### **Management changes if released from wilderness designation**

Semi-primitive non-motorized summer and winter

Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High

Mountain bikes are allowed



## Madison Management Area

- Forest Boundary
- Management Area Boundary
- Research Natural Areas (RNA's)
- National Historic, Scenic, and Recreation Trails

### Travel Restrictions

- 69% Summer Motorized Travel Not Allowed
- 38% Winter Motorized Travel Not Allowed

### Recreation Allocations

- 27% Non-FS Inholding
- 0% Wilderness
- 0% Recommended Wilderness
- Summer**
- 69% Summer Non-motorized
- 0% Backcountry Recreation
- 4% Road-based
- 0% Wilderness Study Area

### Winter

- 38% Winter Non-motorized
- 35% Winter Motorized Recreation
- 0% Wilderness Study Area Winter Non-motorized
- 0% Wilderness Study Area

### Key Watersheds

- 0% Fisheries Key Watersheds
- 0% Restoration Key Watersheds

### Eligible Wild, Scenic, & Recreation Rivers

- Eligible Wild Segments
- Eligible Scenic Segments
- Eligible Recreation Segments

### Communication Sites

- Existing
- Proposed

Utility Rights of Way

- Forest Declared Corridor
- Existing Occupied Right-of-Way

1:150,000



## *Madison Management Area*

These areas are managed to provide access and a transition between the Lee Metcalf Wilderness and adjacent developed land and to provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities.

This management area includes four separate parcels along the edge of the Lee-Metcalf Wilderness and the Bear Creek administrative site and campground. With the exception of Bear Creek, and McAtee Basin in winter, recreation settings are semi-primitive non-motorized.

Two parcels on the north end, along private land in Jack Creek, provide a transition between wilderness and the high use developed settings of Moonlight Basin and Big Sky resorts.

The Indian Creek parcel lies along the foothills of the Madison Range. Both parcels are adjacent to the Lee Metcalf Wilderness but protrude from the Wilderness out into private lands. Indian Creek parcel is managed to provide vehicle access near the wilderness boundary.

McAtee Basin and the head of Middle Fork of Bear Creek were excluded from wilderness designation to allow snowmobile use between Yellow Mules and Buck Creek on the Gallatin National Forest. It provides a non-motorized summer recreation opportunity and motorized winter opportunities.

Bear Creek administrative site and campground is considered part of this Management Area even though it isn't large enough to show as a mapped unit.. This site provides non-motorized access to the Wilderness.

### **Visitors may encounter**

Quiet natural landscapes

Native vegetation changes only from fires or other natural events

Campers, hikers, and horse riders at Bear Creek, occasional snowmobiles in McAtee, and few visitors in the Jack Creek parcels

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### **Objectives in addition to Forestwide Objectives**

None

### **Standards in addition to Forestwide Standards**

Minimum Scenic Integrity Objective - High