

MY TWO CENTS

Musselshell; Trump support

Fabulous area

One feature that makes central Montana appealing is the access to unspoiled public land. Living in relatively close proximity to places like the Big Snowy Wilderness study area, C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge and Upper Missouri River Break National Monument makes this part of the world pretty special.

One area that doesn't get much attention is the breaks country near the Musselshell River. While on a hike recently in Dovetail Creek, I experienced first-hand the ruggedness and beauty of this landscape.

The scattered ponderosa pine, forested draws and deep coulees are as scenic as any in central Montana. For me, this big, rugged, remote country is a place where a wilderness experience can be found.

The Bureau of Land Management came to a similar conclusion. In their wilderness inventory for the Lewistown field office, they identified 16 areas covering 170,000 acres still having wilderness characteristics. Like the nearby land in the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, they include the same high wildlife values providing habitat for a variety of big and small game animals that make up a prairie ecosystem.

This fall, the BLM Lewistown field office is scheduled to release a draft management plan that will determine how this land will be managed in the future. Managing this public land for their wilderness values and in a manner compatible with the refuge in one of the most popular hunting districts in the state adds to the attraction and charm of central

Montana. It also just makes sense.

—Mike Chapman,
Lewistown