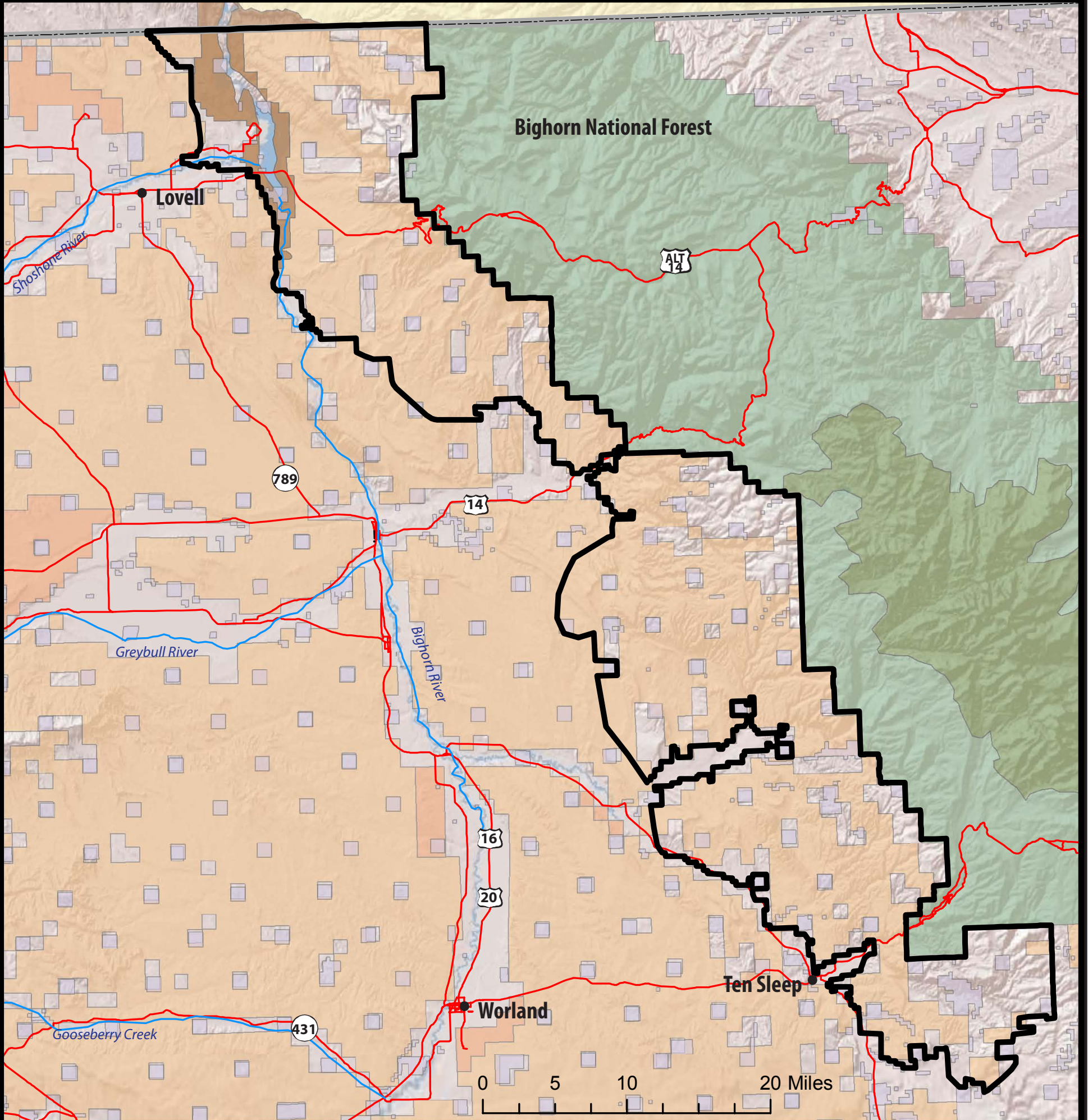
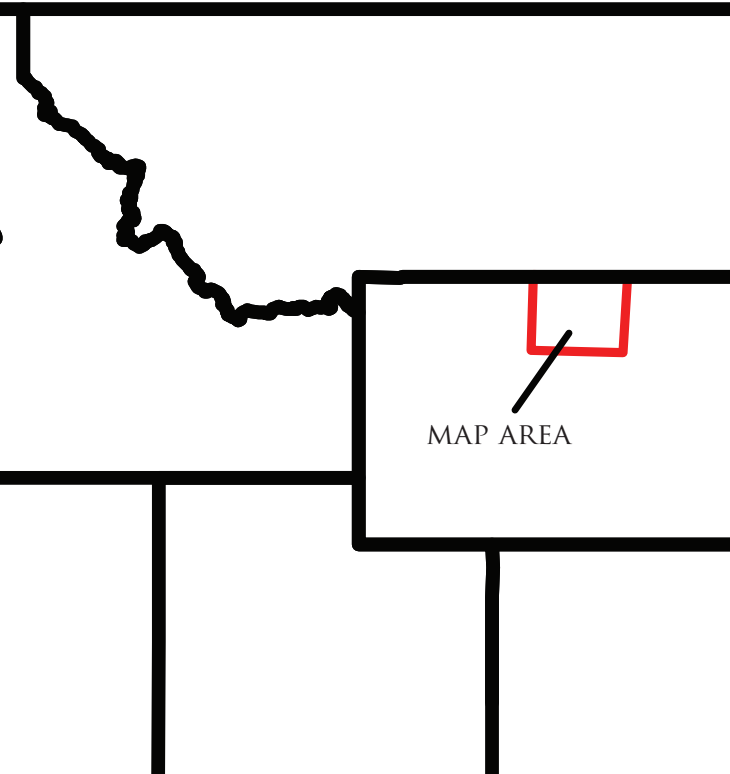



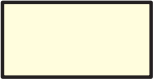






# THE BIGHORN FRONT



## MAP AREA



## LAND JURISDICTION

-  State Lands
-  Tribal Lands
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Bureau of Reclamation
-  Forest Service
-  National Park Service
-  Wilderness
-  General Bighorn Front Boundary

**T**HE BIGHORN FRONT encompasses rugged canyons, steep cliffs, numerous caves, sagebrush steppe, and stands of Douglas fir, juniper and mountain mahogany. These habitats support a diverse assemblage of rare plant species and communities, which in turn support some of the most diverse and dense communities of rare migratory bird and bats anywhere in Wyoming. Because of its richness, the Wyoming Game and



Jeff Vanuga

Fish Department has designated a large portion of the Bighorn Front as a Key Nongame habitat area. One of these canyons supports a pure population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout – such populations are increasingly important because this species continues to decline in other areas. Bighorn sheep, elk, deer, and pronghorn all rely on the intact and unleased BLM lands along Bighorn Front to survive the brutal Wyoming winter. Two distinct Greater Sage grouse core areas also lie along the Bighorn Front.



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Numerous aquifers that originate along the Bighorn Front support lower elevation communities and agriculture. Like the Absaroka and Beartooth Fronts, this area is valued by nearby residents for its outstanding open spaces and recreational opportunities. Indeed, the wealth of archeological sites throughout this area attest to its importance for human populations

across time. Along the Red Gulch/Alkali National Back County Byway, travelers appreciate the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite and other paleontological treasures. To the east of the Byway are three Wilderness Study areas that provide a rare enclave of silence and solitude for those who prefer primitive landscapes. In the southern portion of the front, the Nature Conservancy has established the Ten Sleep preserve – a place of outstanding beauty and biological diversity. In addition to the preserve, TNC has protected private lands near Shell and considers most of the front to be a high conservation priority.

### CONSERVING THE BIGHORN FRONT

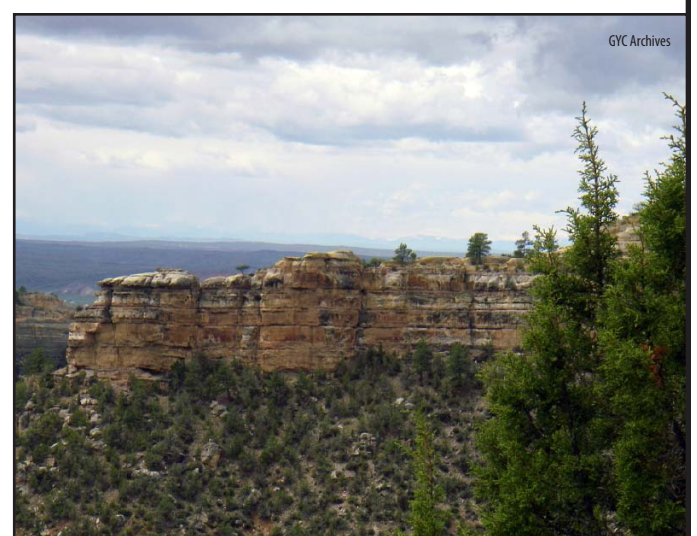
The vast majority of the Bighorn Front remains unleased and undeveloped. Because this area has little or no hydrocarbon potential and because of the superb wild, scenic, and cultural resources found here, it would be a mistake to allow speculative exploration to occur in along the Front. With the vast majority of this area is under federal ownership, BLM should render the Bighorn Front unavailable to oil and gas leasing to protect the aquifers, wildlife, plant communities, cultural treasures, and scenic values that have been important to present and past societies.



Ken Driese

### THE BIGHORN FRONT

- The Bighorn Front hosts some of the most unique, rugged, and diverse canyons found anywhere in Wyoming.
- The numerous aquifers that originate in the Bighorn Front support lower elevation human communities and agriculture.
- The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has designated much of Bighorn Front as a Key Nongame Area because it is extremely rich in bird and bat diversity and density.
- The Bighorn Front provides crucial winter habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, and pronghorn.
- Because most of the Bighorn Front has little or no hydrocarbon potential, the myriad ecological, scenic, and cultural resources of this area should not be compromised by speculative leasing and exploratory drilling.



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