

National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) Meeting
July 16, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.
Forest Service Center, 8221 South Highway 16, Rapid City, SD

Members Present:

Tom Blair, Chairman; Hugh Thompson, Everett Hoyt, Becci Jo Rowe, Donovan Sprague, Pat McElgunn, Tom Troxel, Sam Brannan, Jim Scherrer, Jim Heinert, Doug Hofer, Nels Smith, and Bill Kohlbrand.

Forest Service Representatives:

Craig Bobzien, Dennis Jaeger, Frank Carroll, Dave Thom, Steve Kozel, Bob Thompson, Rhonda O’Byrne, Rusty Wilder, Craig Beckner, and Twila Morris - Recorder.

Others:

Approximately 10 members of the public, and three congressional representatives; Chris Blair, Mark Haugen, and Tania Schepper, were in attendance.

Members Absent:

Bob Paulson, Mac McCracken, Nancy Kile

Welcome and Roll Call:

Chair Blair: Quorum present, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Welcome everyone; please turn off your cell phones.

Welcome Sam Brannan of Pete Lien and Sons, new member here today.

Welcome Bill Kohlbrand Wyoming State Forestry Division, fairly new member here today.

Welcome Tom Troxel Black Hills Forest Resource Association, not new to us, but hasn’t been on many Board meetings.

Hoyt: Welcome back Craig, glad to have you back.

Approve April Minutes:

Blair: Are there any changes to the April minutes? Hearing no corrections, the minutes stand as reported.

Approve Agenda

Blair: Are there any changes to the agenda?

Motion to approve made by Heinert, motion second by H. Thompson.

Blair: The agenda stands as presented.

Housekeeping:

Carroll: Directions around building given. Thanks to the Boxelder Job Corps Center for the treats.

Meeting Protocols – Issues:

Blair: For the benefit of the new members here today, please address the Chair when you have questions, address questions to presenters directly to them.

Carroll: Reminder – Mileage claims. Board members are appointed by the Secretary of the State, so you are entitled to mileage reimbursement. Travel reimbursement can be made for expenses you incur while traveling on Board business. See Twila if you have any questions.

Bobzien: Remaining Appointment Certificates passed out.

HOT TOPICS

Chair Blair: Our field trip is in August. It's extremely informative; we've gone to all locations on the Forest. We've discussed all aspects of management of the Black Hills.

At the Task Force meeting on the 15th, we discussed having an hour business meeting before or after the field trip, Frank where are we with that?

Carroll: What we're planning is a field trip that will focus on invasive species, including aquatic nuisance species. As you'll hear today, we intend to be aggressive in the treatment of invasive species. When we first started the field trips, we had some marathon bus rides, and we don't want to do that any more. In this case, we are in the middle of travel planning, so we would like to take an hour prior to the field trip for the Business Plan Task Force to meet. This is not a full Board meeting, but you are welcome to sit in on the Task Force meeting. We'll meet at the Mystic office at 9:00 a.m. and the bus will depart at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda for field trip will be out shortly.

Carroll: Other hot topics include the off road activity news of late. The awareness level is high among the public and they feel strongly about protecting the Forest. Troy Hall and the Off Road Riders got together last weekend and repaired damage to the Centennial Trail. We appreciate all you've done Patty (Brown).

The new National Geographic for July contains a story about the wildfire situation in the west, called "Why the West Is Burning." Information includes how to build smart in the urban interface. The brochure "Your Home in the Woods" was passed out. The Forest Service has been sending this brochure to Realtors in the area, so that they can tell perspective buyers what their responsibilities are.

Bobzien: One note that Frank didn't mention is that he is quoted in that National Geographic article.

Jaeger: Welcome back to Craig Bobzien, good to have him back.

Fire situation: We've had 14 fires so far which is much lower than usual, this could change rather quickly. The Black Hills has two helicopters, six engines, and 14 overhead assigned to other Regions. Also, the Hot Shots are expected to be going out again soon.

Roads & Trails: Rochford area roads and trails have been washed out, the Castle Peak road especially.

Veg Management: Upper Spring Creek, Decision signed, out for public comment, West Rim and South Project is out for public comment.

Scherrer: Can you give us an update on the water content of the pine trees, and what the status of the bug issue is? What is the data showing now? Historically it's the increased moisture that breaks the beetle cycle.

Jaeger: The energy release component, normally is 100 to 120%, right now all stations are recording 40%, so the moisture content is probably double where they were last year. What affect it has on the bark beetles is uncertain. The Upper Spring Creek project was designed specifically to attack the bark beetles as well as the Mitchell project. We were out looking at timber last week, and beetles in the upper elevations have not flown yet.

Hoyt: We have a place in Silver City, and the night of the rain in Rochford, the gauge just above Silver City showed 100 cff, at midnight, it peaked at 1500 cff. The gauge went from five feet to nine and a half feet.

Hofer: The Mickleson Trail did get washed out. The State is awarding a contract today to repair the ¾ mile of trail. In a week to 10 days, the trail work should be complete. The trail is open now; you just have to go around the wash out.

REGULAR AGENDA

Business Plan Task Force Update

Bobzien: As a refresher, as the name indicates, the Advisory Board is to give advice. This is a federally recognized Board. Part of the process of getting advice, is to create understanding. Invasive Species and Minerals activity on the Black Hills are two of the topics on the agenda today. In terms of advice, the Board has really been involved in the travel planning process here on the Black Hills. We don't know of anything that is more important right now than the work we are all doing on the travel planning process. The Board members are all connected and associated with folks who they represent here at the meetings. I encourage the Board members to tell us what you are thinking, or feeling, and what you are hearing.

Travel Planning: We've been into this for about 3 ½ years. I do not know of another National Forest in the Country that has had the involvement that we do here. The approach that we had in taking advice from the Board was a piece about wanting an active vs. a passive system. In the simplest sense, I could have just issued an order that said all you can use are these certain roads, issued a map and been done. We've taken a more active role. Our challenge in doing that, when we involve the public, etc., is responding to all of it. The three legs of the stool that are needed to make what we are doing here work, and what we are considering with the OHV trail system work, are, a system that is:

1. Environmentally Sound
2. Socially Acceptable
3. Economically Feasible

An active system will cost money because we have to manage the resource over time. The Team that has been working on this has had a goal to have the Draft Environmental Impact Statement done by August 1st. That goal has been met, but when we looked at the content, and looked at the amount of environmental review we had done, I decided that it was insufficient. We will continue with the review, to look at the environmental affects, and what people want.

We are working with the Team and the Rangers to see what additional work we need to do, so I can't give you an exact time frame, but we're looking at months not years. We need to keep true to what we hear from the public.

Hofer: What is the drop dead date to convert to a closed unless open Forest?

Bobzien: The end of calendar year 2009.

Blair: That is a finite type of a timeline. Just a brief history, we've been involved in the system for the better part of three and a half years now, we've had public meetings, and Task Groups. Several of us have also sat on the Governor's Task Force, which we were unable to get into proper perspective to get it into legislation. One of the things we knew we needed to do was put the dollar and cents into the format of a Business Plan. We looked at two different models last night, and one was the Cadillac version – if we could have anything we want. The other version was a more realistic version. For the most part, we would like to rush into it, but it doesn't fit the criteria of being reasonable. Mother Nature has the ability to tell us where trails can and can't be. We also decided that we would need one more meeting before we present the plan to the Board. That's why we think we should have a meeting before the field trip. We're obviously on the right trail, and we're still struggling with what the correct fee is that we need to charge, what is socially acceptable. The first meeting we had years ago, there was a gentleman who wanted a trail, and wanted it right now – and he didn't care if he had to pay \$100.00. The public input tells us that people are willing to pay for these trails. Special thanks to Patty and her group for their efforts to repair trails. We'll be ready with some information by the September meeting.

Kohlbrand: Is the user fee for the off road trail system only? Can people use roads?

Blair: We have a distinction because roads encompass a variety of vehicles. Currently we have a license process for 4-wheelers, and they can ride on roads. But we make a distinction between roads and trails, and motorized and non-motorized. We know there are many different uses of the system. Roads are currently maintained by the County or Government.

Kohlbrand: Have you looked into the Wyoming system?

Kozel: On the Wyoming OHV system, you can enroll, and it gives the operator of the vehicle license to drive on the road.

Kohlbrand: Will you incorporate Wyoming's sticker system, or will there be one in South Dakota and a different one in Wyoming?

Blair: We're not sure. We've talked about reciprocity, the Forest flows over both states. We've been an open Forest, so we'll learn from Wyoming, but it will be predominately South Dakota based.

Kohlbrand: I'm going to need stickers for all Forests then to ride is that correct?

Bobzien: I don't think so; most of the other Forests are doing the passive system, where people mostly ride on the roads, and will have few OHV trails. I will say that we have talked to the Nebraska NF, and they are interested in doing something with reciprocity, we know we have some similarities.

Kohlbrand: There are no real plans to work something out with Wyoming?

Bobzien: Part of it again is how active we make the system, and how we will actively manage the system.

Kozel: I understand what you're saying, with the possibility of having four or five sticker systems in one State, and we are definitely thinking about how we will work through that State system, and then eventually what the revenue will be.

Scherrer: The overlap of the hills, has not escaped us as far as using some common sense. What the Black Hills has done in a visionary manner is looked ahead of what other Forests have already done, and recognized that we won't charge people to ride on roads, but rather help people to have a quality experience. It will be critical that we offer a quality product at a fair price and the challenge will be enforcement. We just can't put enough people or signs up to take care of the renegades. We have to come up with a system that the users will buy in to, so it makes no sense for people to drive across an imaginary line, and pay more money. We recognize the need to come up with a common sense approach.

Hoyt: I commend our Task Force. When I meet vehicles pulling a trailer with six OHV's, I just cringe recognizing that we will have a trail system. I also ask that we expedite as much as possible, because the system and enforcement is needed in the Black Hills.

Blair: We took a step back last night, and decided we needed to re-organize. One of the struggles is trying to figure out how many visitors we will have - is it 10,000 a year, more, less, really where are we at – and we may not know till after the first year.

The difference with Wyoming vs. the Black Hills is we are working for an active system, and I applaud the Forest Service. A passive system would have been easy, but that's not what we have. What we are doing right now is putting all the pieces of the puzzle together so that we have a system that has all the things it will need to make it work. One of the reasons I came to this Board is because we are all stewards of the land, and I want to leave this place better than it was when I came. We will be the model for the other National Forests.

Kohlbrand: I don't want you to think I was being critical; I just want to catch up.

Smith: We have the benefit of the reality check; Bill's coming in cold, so he will see it from a different view point. We need to look at his reality check. We can't make Wyoming and South Dakota mesh, but we can provide for some degree of reciprocity. Every Forest Bill goes to, if what we do here is presidential, an ATV may have more stickers than it could carry. We need as much intergovernmental involvement as possible. I know Bill talks from a real prospective.

Scherrer: Which is why Steve Kozel has been involved with us from day one.

Blair: Five minute break.

Invasive Species – Craig Beckner

Bobzien: The topic of invasives is an area that the Sub Committee was commissioned to provide a report. We look at all the integrated ways we handle invasives, both terrestrial, and aquatic. Craig Beckner will go into detail today about the part of everyone working together. Former Chief Bosworth noted it as one of the four threats. Our focus of having a healthy forest and healthy rangeland is to do everything we can to keep it healthy. Craig has been working with the County, the State, and everyone is putting their knowledge together because as we know, weeds know no boundaries.

Beckner: I'm the Range Management Specialist for the Black Hills National Forest. I have three topics to discuss today. The first thing I want to cover is the progress of the Black Hills Weed Coalition, secondly I want to talk about the importance and risk of weeds, and lastly, I'll talk about the Black Hills 2008 program.

Discussion generated by Craig Beckner's presentation:

Carroll: Salt Cedar is creating a fire environment that is out of control in New Mexico.

Beckner: They are having the same problems in Colorado, and Wyoming. We have about five occurrences on the Black Hills. We assume birds brought them in.

Hofer: The Bureau of Reclamation has spent 200K dealing with salt cedar in the reservoirs, it just eats up the water way. It also uses up a lot of the available water.

Smith: Can you burn it out?

Beckner: No, if you burn it, it comes right back.

Hoyt: What gets a plant on the list? I've come to a truce in my own mind with dandelions, and I consider them a thing of beauty!

Beckner: A plant that will take over an area from the natives, and are aggressively taking over. Some of the weeds need disturbance, others don't.

Hofer: Any real difference in noxious weeds vs. invasives?

Beckner: No not really, I use the terms interchangeably.

Blair: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder? Or is there really a hard criterion?

Beckner: It has to be non-native.

Brannan: The goals of the Forest Plan that are listed, were those Black Hills goals? Some of the actions you take reduce the chances of the Forest Service reaching some of these goals, for example, burning brush piles will cause weeds to grow. The goal of preventing new infestations is impossible as long as you burn brush piles.

Beckner: Yes, those are Black Hills goals. We do burn slash piles, and we are able to sell some to industry. We do treat weeds after the pile is treated, and recognize we may not be able to prevent all new infestation.

Scherrer: Interface between Forest Service and private land, where private people are doing all they can to take care of their own weeds, and each year, they take one step forward and two steps back because the Forest Service upstream isn't covering their weeds.

Beckner: We have an agreement with the Counties, that if they spray on private land and there are weeds across the line, they go ahead and spray them.

Scherrer: I have a good working relationship with the Forest Service. What about the Forest Service - when you spray, do you let land owners know if there is private land in the area that you just sprayed so that they can spray also?

Kohlbrand: What about integrated pest management, such as bugs or goats, are you using any of that?

Beckner: Yes, we do use insects; we've never been able to get goats out to give them a try. I do know that sheep work, especially on leafy spurge.

B. Thompson: We would have an issue with sheep because of the Big Horn sheep population. We do use cows in some places, we have a permittee in the Castle Peak area that gets in just at the right time, and it has helped eliminated some of the thistle.

Heinert: The 7% treatment, is that the estimate of infestation? At that rate of treatment are you keeping it in check?

Beckner: This is the number of acres we are treating. It does slow it down, but keeping it in complete check, no. We seed in the area of brush piles, which helps keep the weeds down and a lot of other things also.

Heinert: What is the rate of growth?

Beckner: Our numbers have gone from 100K acres to 190K. Some of that is because we've just figured out better ways to inventory and track weed populations. We treat 30 to 40K acres a year, and depending on where it is, we get maybe 10% weeds back.

H. Thompson: Have you looked into stewardship authority as a possibility of new funding? It's a depressed market; use the value of timber for work on invasive species.

Beckner: No we haven't yet.

Scherrer: What is your budget for this?

Beckner: Between four & six million dollars a year and we'll lose up to 70% of that.

Brennan: So that figures out to \$500.00 per acre.

Beckner: It's actually about \$120.00 an acre.

Thom: Our total KV budget is \$6 million and our weed budget is about \$1 million.

Hoyt: What about aquatic species?

Beckner: They are the new species. The *Didymosphenia geminata* (didymo) that we read so much about last year in Spring Creek, there is debate about if that is native. The zebra mussel gets transported by boat, but we haven't found any of it here yet – it is in the Missouri River. Steve Hirtzel is the person on the Forest that deals with aquatics.

Carroll: We'll be developing a plan for the Forest.

B. Thompson: Ev is probably the resident expert in didymo.

Hoyt: Dan James of SD GF&P is doing his doctorate on didymo. Now that the side creeks are running, and making them higher in nutrients, it is lessening.

Smith: The comment about whether or not didymo is a native highlights an obsession we have about whether or not something is a native. Moving toward a more native population turns our back on some of the species that are helpful, and this is wrong. I see this trend growing and it is leading us down some wrong paths.

Bobzien: Thanks Nels, I said that we are interested in native systems, and part of it is because of our special botanical places, but I should have also included desirable non-natives. We have discovered through our research that some of the non-natives are good especially for stabilizing soil on disturbed sites, so we do use them in some practices.

Aquatics: Zebra mussel really took off in Colorado, it's in the Missouri River now, and it's in the upper Midwest. There's a huge difference in the areas that use the ground water, they will get into the water systems. In Colorado, they start at the head of the system, and they just get worse and worse as it moves down. We're in between right now, we have to make sure we are testing and looking for those things before they multiply and get out of control, especially where we are using surface water.

Hofer: Is there really any treatment for the zebra mussel?

Bobzien: You have to detect it and prevent it.

Hofer: Most of it spreads through boats.

H. Thompson: The W.O. issued a proposed regulation that I commented on, that had to do with using non natives for re-vegetation and re-seeding, and I never heard if that had been adopted. I would like to know what the status of that is.

- ✓ **Action: Check into the status of proposed regulation regarding using non natives.** Forest Service manual 2070 – vegetation ecology, addresses use of native species. Document mailed to Hugh Thompson.

Bobzien: I don't know. In practice, we still have the ability to use non-natives where they are successful. If we have a site that a native species isn't sufficient, we'll try a non-native.

Smith: I recall it was discussed in the Invasive Plant Sub Committee too.

Rowe: Back to the zebra mussel, what are the adverse affects of these, do they contaminate the water, and do they contaminate other species?

Bobzien: They are oxygen users, and they compete in the food chain. Also the physical problem they present in how they attach themselves to things, and plug up systems.

Smith: In this research on control or prevention are they finding any natural enemies? They have to have an enemy.

Beckner: I don't know Nels, something we'll get Steve Hirtzel to talk about in August.

Bobzien: It's being worked on regionally. From the State, Doug (Hofer), who is the point person?

Hofer: I would start with John Lott in the fisheries section, and I would suspect that there is someone assigned to it. We've had the zebra muscles in the Lewis & Clark for 10 years now. But in other states, it's documented that they spread through the boats. We have an active program to educate the users about them, and the Department has been focused on it for a number of years.

Hoyt: Have there been any adverse affects on the Lewis & Clark?

Hofer: I don't think they are finding the perfect environment so it hasn't turned into quite such a problem. So far it hasn't done much. Just like some of the weeds, such as curly leaf pond weed, in the Missouri system that has been spread by boats. In marinas they made it almost impossible to get boats in. There are fishery benefits that come from some of these species. The city of Pierre spends 50K a year treating curly leaf pond weed just in the city limits of Pierre.

Kohlbrand: What are you using on spotted knapweed? A number of years ago, there was almost nothing that could treat it.

Beckner: I will find out and call you Bill.

Rowe: I've seen in previous presentations that one of the causes of the spread of invasive species could be unmanaged recreation. What measures are you thinking about taking to inform the Forest users? With the influx of recreational vehicles coming in, it seems to me that this would be one area to focus on.

Beckner: We've talked about a brochure, we do have some signs, and now we have restrictions on weed free hay which helps. Some of the first knapweed we found we believe came from a dispersed horse camp out of Montana. One of the best things we can do is restricting vehicles to roads and trails. Just the fact that you don't move what we have around will help.

Heinert: What is your estimated over all rate of effectiveness?

Beckner: 85 to 90%, but if we treat in June or July, a second batch will come up, and we're already on to a different patch.

B. Thompson: Generally we go out to the same locations for three to five years in a row, to try to get a handle on it.

Heinert: At some point do you think you'll reach total eradication?

Beckner: There isn't enough money to eradicate a species. We keep it down as much as possible. Canada thistle seeds are in the soil for many years.

B. Thompson: The ultimate answer is to reach some kind of balance with enemies of the invasive species. Eventually we want to end up with enough of the weed's enemies, that we reach a tolerable level and with in certain bounds. Some of the chemicals we are using are getting better.

Heinert: Do the drought conditions make it worse?

Beckner: Yes, to some extent, some weeds live on less water.

Blair: Let's take questions from the public at this time rather than an hour from now.

Patty Brown: Do you do any treatments in burn areas?

Beckner: Yes, we seed, spray, and use natural biological controls.

O'Byrne: We can also close the areas to motor vehicles.

Beckner: Seeding tends to work well.

Elaine Ebbert: With all the invasives there are, and so many agencies involved, and with the DOT - they do the road work, they put in a lot of invasives, such as ox eye daisy, crested wheat grass, and maybe that does stabilize the soil quicker, but then those species take over.

Beckner: Some are non-native and some are invasive, crested wheat grass is non-native, but not invasive.

Ebbert: They still displace all the native grasses. Even in the city, when they have the gardens that have yellow iris, it just chokes out the rest of the plants.

Blair: Thank you very much Craig, we'll take another brief break.

Minerals Program – Rusty Wilder

Bobzien: I would like to introduce Rusty Wilder who is our minerals specialist on the Forest. Rusty will give a real broad overview of activity on the Forest. Rusty is really knowledgeable, about issues on the Black Hills and nationally as well. Thanks Rusty.

Wilder: I'm not a geologist by training; I'm a civil engineer, so I came into this area of management without formal training. I would like to go over several areas regarding mining including; legal framework, Forest Service roles, three mineral categories, minerals program in the Black Hills, superfund, and abandoned mines program.

Discussion generated by Rusty's presentation:

H. Thompson: Forest Service roles, does that include water quality?

Wilder: Yes the miners are required to comply with those laws.

Blair: Is the State the manager of the site?

Wilder: In general we're the manager of the surface site. We want to mitigate the impacts, and reclaim the land when they are done. Our intent is to make it a productive part of the ecosystem.

Blair: When they actively mine, is there a royalty they pay to the Forest Service?

Wilder: If you stake a claim, you can sell it; you can give it to your heirs. For saleable or locatable minerals, the US establishes a market price, so the miner would have to weigh the rock, and the miner would have to pay a royalty. For oil, private companies bid on the lease. The lease money is split between the State and the Feds, it is essentially split 50/50. Once you start production, then you pay a royalty per ton.

Blair: Does that go back into the general fund.

Wilder: Yes, it goes into the general fund; we don't see it on the Forest.

Troxel: What about oil?

Wilder: It's a competitive process, and you end up paying by the barrel.

B. Thompson: It used to be that they would pay 12.5% of the value of oil.

Smith: And at the well head.

Wilder: So, saleable minerals, no royalty.

Sprague: Are the South Dakota tribes notified when you are processing mining requests?

Wilder: There is legislation that requires us to consult with the Tribes.

B. Thompson: Under NEPA we scope all of the interested tribal representatives. On a number of reservations, they have tribal preservation officers. There are about 36 different tribes that we consult with.

Kozel: It's not just local tribes; we send the information to northern and southern tribes as well.

Carroll: So if I want rose quartz, do you have sites identified?

Wilder: Some Districts have sites identified, but more often than not, an individual comes in with a site in mind that they would like to pick from.

Smith: Is Dewey going to be a boom town?

Wilder: GCC was looking at putting a kiln there, but now all they may have is a fair number of people running trucks, there.

Hoyt: What was the cost to reclaim the Blue Lagoon mine and was it a superfund site – meaning the bond was insufficient?

Wilder: I believe it was a 25 to 30 acre site, and cost around 400K to reclaim. Back when this was mined, there was no bond. The money we used was actually from Exxon Valdez.

Smith: What kind of mine was it?

Wilder: Uranium, it was a fairly large pit.

Hoyt: How many people have been injured or killed by falling in mine shafts.

Wilder: I don't know, what I've heard about is dogs falling in. Someone fell into the Minnesota Ridge mine but more people fall off cliffs.

Hoyt: What are the ownership issues? Does that go back to the Government?

Wilder: When there is a claim, they have a right to the mineral but not the land. When no one owns the claim to the mine, it falls back on the Government.

H. Thompson: Certain residents of the Sand Creek Country Club have petitioned to get a designation of rare and uncommon. Do you feel that it is sufficient to protect the vegetation and water quality alone without the very rare and uncommon? There's been no proposal; it's been kind of pre-emptive.

Wilder: I hesitate to comment, I do know that the State of Wyoming is considering that proposal.

Rowe: What is the ultimate goal regarding the vast number of mines on the Black Hills? Will they all be reclaimed, to a status where safety is first and foremost, or will there be allowances for leaving some for education?

Wilder: Gold Mountain Mine near Hill City is a good example. There is a lot of interest regarding historic value. This is something we always consider. We talk to the archeologists, water specialists, etc.

Blair: We've talked in our off road vehicle discussions to take abandoned mine sites that may not be able to be totally reclaimed, where we could have separate areas for people to use for OHV use, but yet we can regulate it in some manner.

Wilder: The District Rangers would analyze each site and make the decision. A private individual could always come in and stake a claim.

Smith: Mosquitoes carry West Nile, and bats eat them, and bats carry rabies. Why are we making such an effort to keep the bats? The fact that they were presumed to be present pre-settlement, is enough justification to protect them?

Wilder: There were a lot more natural caves prior to human interruption. The bats have suffered from this. Jewel cave perhaps may have had bats at one time, but no longer does. We try to protect their habitat. I've asked the biologist about handling bats with rabies, but he said that bats don't have rabies nearly to the extent people would think.

Sprague: Just a comment on the General Mining Law of 1872, the year before in 1871, congress ended treaty making with the tribes, so that had a major impact on the Black Hills.

Rowe: Could you give us an update on the Centennial Trail damage and Johnson Gulch issue; I'm curious what is going on.

Jaeger: The investigation is complete, and it is with the US attorney's office.

Rowe: My intent is to use it for an educational tool when the results are published.

Troxel: Back on June 10, there was a tornado near four corners that ran for several miles. Since then the Forest Service has modified two timber sale contracts and done four other contracts so that the work could be done. I applaud this action by the Forest Service.

Public Comments ~ Chairman Blair

Chair Blair: If anyone from the public wishes to address the Board, please do so.

Larry Ebbert: Just a comment, I'm not sure why the Black Hills has to be in the fore front in the National Forest on motorized travel.

Mary Zimmerman: Centennial trail, an ounce of prevention may be worth a pound of cure, we know it was rainy, and any one with common sense would not go out on the trail. By Memorial Day weekend, the ground was saturated, and the postmaster mentioned that dirt bikes just headed out, and it was 8 – 12 bikes. I stopped where I could see the trail was damaged, so I sat on the road and I could hear dirt bikes. By early afternoon, I called the Forest Service, and asked if an LEO could go out to enforce the issue. I was told that the LEO had retired, and I was told that I should call the Mystic District. I never heard back from anyone on this, and it

seems like some of the damage could have been avoided. Jim Scherrer mentioned the need for enforcement, and I don't know if we have a handle on enforcement where we want to invite the world to ride our trails. West of the trail head and going on east the creek was brown from mud running off the trails. I have a pond that is taking on silt from the run off of the trails.

Elaine Ebbert: Why haven't the names of the people involved in the Northern Hills issue been published?

O'Byrne: KOTA did a report that was in error on the dollar amount of the damage.

Ebbert: In talking about the Black Hills being the model for motorized travel, I'm not sure that is a good thing, there are Forests that have no motorized travel.

Blair: August 20 field trip, meeting for the Business Plan Task Force at 9:00 a.m. field trip at 10:00, the meeting is open to the public, but the discussion will be restricted to Task Force members.

Adjournment:

Chair Blair: If there is no other business to come before the Board, I will ask for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Hoyt and seconded by Troxel. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

2008 Meeting Dates:

August 20 – Field Trip
September 17
October 15
November 19
December – No Meeting
January 6, 2009 - Tentative