

**Shawnee National Forest  
Hidden Springs Ranger District  
Trails Designation Project Accomplishments  
Month of May 2007**

**Trail work accomplished in the Lusk Creek Wilderness under the Trails Designation Project:**

- During the month of May, a team of ten mules and three Forest Service staff from the Bridger/Teton National Forest (NF), out of Wyoming, were on detail to the Shawnee NF. In addition, the mule team from the Hoosier NF, who plowed and graded new trail re-routes during April, returned with four mules throughout the same time period. Both mule teams, while working in concert with the District's trail crew, hauled over 300 tons of gravel into the Lusk Creek Wilderness. The gravel was shoveled into 5-gallon buckets and loaded by hand into specially designed gravel bags on each mule. Once loaded, the team was lead down the trail to its destination where the trail crew would unload and spread the gravel on sections of re-routes (Figures 1 and 2). The smooth river gravel, with its clay base, supports the trail tread with the intention of providing a suitable wet-weather surface. These areas include the recently re-routed Goat Trail (001) and Secret Canyon (429A) (Figures 3 – 6).

The gravel has also been used to improve trail conditions in areas where the terrain does not allow for re-routing and have issues with natural seepage and rain water run off. In these sections, the gravel is used to raise the trail tread above wet, muddy conditions. In addition, the gravel has been used to complete several trail features such as turnpikes. Some of these areas include Trail 457 and 457D near the Blanchard Church Creek Crossing on Lusk Creek (Figures 7 and 8).

**Planned project activities for June 2007:**

- The Bridger/Teton mule team will complete their detail on Saturday, June 2. The Hoosier mule team will continue to work with the District's trail crew to plow new re-routes in the Lusk Creek Wilderness throughout the early part of the month. These areas include re-routes near Frank's Track and the Wishing Well Trail (481B). In addition, beginning approximately in mid-June, heavy equipment will be used by the trail crew to reconstruct sections of trail outside the wilderness near the areas of Jackson Falls and the Wilson Track.

Also, the second phase of the Trail Sign Plan for the Trails Designation Project will be implemented in June. Over a hundred new directional trail signs will be installed along designated trails, outside of the wilderness, within the Lusk Creek, Eagle Creek, Big Grand Pierre Creek, and Upper Bay Creek watersheds. The directional signs will be mounted on posts located at trail entrances and junctions.



**Figure 1. Mule team from the Bridger/Teton National Forest hauling gravel in the Lusk Creek Wilderness.**



**Figure 2. Trail crew member unloading gravel on the trail.**



**Figure 3. Before.** Section of trail in the Lusk Creek Wilderness from County Road 23 to the Barger Branch Creek and Trail 481 before gravel and turnpike was installed.



**Figure 4. After.** Same section as above after turnpike is installed and gravel placed in the tread.



**Figure 5. Before.** Section of Trail 492A in the Lusk Creek Wilderness near New Liberty Church leading to Secret Canyon before gravel was spread.



**Figure 6. After.** Same section as above after gravel is placed on trail.



**Figure 7. Before.** Section of Trail 457D just west of the Blanchard Church Creek Crossing in the Lusk Creek Wilderness before rock turnpike was installed and gravel placed in tread.



**Figure 8. After.** Same section above upon completion of turnpike and gravel placement.