



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

10/01/2019 to 12/31/2019

Black Hills National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
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Black Hills National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)	R2 - Rocky Mountain Region
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RNA and BA Mineral Withdrawal EA *UPDATED*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special area management - Minerals and Geology - Land ownership management 	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 09/24/2015 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 12/2019	Expected:01/2020	05/2020	Louie Conroy 605-673-9207 lmconroy@fs.fed.us
Description: Proposed withdrawal of research natural areas and botanical areas from mineral entry. Necessary part of RNA designation process. Forest Service recommendation to BLM, who makes the decision. Project not subject to the objection process.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45590					
Location: UNIT - Black Hills National Forest All Units. STATE - South Dakota, Wyoming. COUNTY - Custer, Lawrence, Pennington, Crook. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This proposal addresses four Research Natural Areas and seven Botanical Areas totaling about 17,000 acres at various locations in South Dakota and Wyoming.					
Rushmore Connector Trail Project EIS *UPDATED*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation management - Special use management 	In Progress: NOI in Federal Register 06/07/2016 Est. DEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/2019	Expected:03/2020	05/2020	Louie Conroy 605-673-9207 lmconroy@fs.fed.us
Description: The State of South Dakota has applied for a permit to construct, operate and maintain a 14-mile non-motorized trail across the Forest connecting the Mickelson Trail to Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. The decision would amend Forest Plan direction.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44935					
Location: UNIT - Black Hills National Forest All Units. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The trail would connect the existing Mickelson Trail, running east from US Hwy 385 to the Mt. Rushmore Memorial.					

Black Hills National Forest Bearlodge Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)	R2 - Rocky Mountain Region
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Black Hills National Forest	Bearlodge Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R2 - Rocky Mountain Region	
Cook Lake Recreation Facility Maintenance CE *UPDATED*	- Facility management	Completed	Actual: 05/10/2019	07/2019	Elizabeth Krueger 307-283-1361 ekrueger@fs.fed.us
Description: Maintenance activities at the recreation facility to enhance long-term functionality of the Cook Lake dam and increase public safety at the facility and in downstream areas.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=41597					
Location: UNIT - Bearlodge Ranger District. STATE - Wyoming. COUNTY - Crook. LEGAL - T. 53 N., R. 63 W., section 10, 6th P.M. Cook Lake, Bear Lodge Mountains, Crook County, Wyoming.					
Crook Country FRTA Easements CE *UPDATED*	- Land ownership management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/30/2018	Expected:11/2019	01/2020	John Kelley 605-642-4622 johnmkelley@fs.fed.us
Description: Crook County, Wyoming claims historic right-of-way on select roads, however current right-of-way status is legally uncertain. The county would like to legally claim these roads as well as abandoning easements on other select roads.					
Location: UNIT - Bearlodge Ranger District. STATE - Wyoming. COUNTY - Crook. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Select roads within the Bearlodge Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest.					

Black Hills National Forest	Hell Canyon Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R2 - Rocky Mountain Region	
BF #1 Placer Mining Project CE *UPDATED*	- Minerals and Geology	Completed	Actual: 07/13/2018	07/2018	Gary Haag 605-673-9314 gahaag@fs.fed.us
Description: Construct a hardened stream crossing so that motorized vehicles can cross French Creek. The purpose for the crossing is to allow transportation of mining equipment to the eastern portion of BF#1 mining claim. Mining equipment used will be hand tools.					
Location: UNIT - Hell Canyon Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - Black Hills Meridian; T3S, R3E; Sections 13 & 24. 5.5 miles west-northwest of Custer, SD. Access is via FS Road 286.1A.					

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Black Hills National Forest Hell Canyon Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)		R2 - Rocky Mountain Region			
Black Hills Electric Cooperative 306 & 314 Projects CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 08/23/2019	09/2019	Karina Hawley 605-673-9325 khawley@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Black Hills Electric Cooperative is requesting to replace portions of their single-phase line with three-phase lines. Line reconstruction will include replacement of all poles within the corridor. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55712				
	Location: UNIT - Hell Canyon Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Custer. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Segment of line from Custer to Pringle on the West side of highway 385.				
Lithograph Land Exchange EA *UPDATED*	- Land ownership management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 11/2019	Expected:03/2020	05/2020	Meagan Buehler 605-673-9345 mkbuehler@fs.fed.us
	Description: Land Adjustment				
	Location: UNIT - Hell Canyon Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Custer, Fall River. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Southern Hills.				
Phoenix 42 Placer Mining Project CE *UPDATED*	- Minerals and Geology	Completed	Actual: 09/28/2017	09/2017	Gary Haag 605-673-4853 ghaag@fs.fed.us
	Description: Mining will consist of trenches approximately 150 ft. long x 50 ft. wide x 10 ft. deep. Gravels from the trenches will e processed through a trommel. Initially 5 yards of ore will be processed per hour. Mining will be conducted 10-12 hours per day. Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51741				
	Location: UNIT - Hell Canyon Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Custer. LEGAL - Black Hills Meridian, T.3S., R.4E., SE1/4 of Section 28. The project is along Upper French Creek approximately three-quarters of a mile west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 16 and County Road 286 (Upper French Creek Road). Access via existing access rd.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Black Hills National Forest	Hell Canyon Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R2 - Rocky Mountain Region	
Tepee Canyon Project CE *UPDATED*	- Forest products - Fuels management	Completed	Actual: 08/22/2019	09/2019	Matthew Spring 605-673-9374 mtspring@fs.fed.us
Description: The purpose and need of this project is to increase the wildfire resilience of the project area using commercial and non-commercial treatments in ponderosa pine stands.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56283					
Location: UNIT - Hell Canyon Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Custer. LEGAL - T 04 S, R 01E, Sec. 1, 12, 13 T 04 S, R 02 E, Sec. 3-11, 15-18 Custer County, South Dakota . The Tepee Canyon project area is located approximately 17 miles west of the city of Custer, one mile west of Jewel Cave National Monument and is directly adjacent to the At-Risk Community of Custer Highlands Subdivision.					
Virginia Mine CE *UPDATED*	- Minerals and Geology	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Gary Haag 605-673-9199 ghaag@fs.fed.us
Description: Pacer Corporation the operator of the Virginia Mine has submitted a proposed amendment to their existing Plan of Operations. The amendment proposes to expand the Virginia Mine by 1-acre.					
Location: UNIT - Hell Canyon Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Custer. LEGAL - BHM, T4S, R5E, SW 1/4, Section 7. The area of the proposed expansion is located approximately 1.4 miles northeast of Pringle, South Dakota.					

Black Hills National Forest	Mystic Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R2 - Rocky Mountain Region	
Century Link Sales Solutions, Inc. Special Use Permit Re-Issuance CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 06/10/2019	06/2019	Rodney Brown 605-343-1567 x3552 rwbrown@fs.fed.us
Description: Re-issue Century Link a Special Use Permit for their existing buried and overhead copper wire and fiber optic cable lines on NFS lands. The term of the new permit will be for 20 years.					
Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Existing buried and over head copper wire and fiber optic lines are located in the following areas: Cosmos, Custer Peak, McCurdy Gulch, Merritt Estes, and other forest-wide locations.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Black Hills National Forest Mystic Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)		R2 - Rocky Mountain Region			
Cutty Sark Exploration Project CE *UPDATED*	- Minerals and Geology	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 02/2020	Expected:07/2020	07/2020	Gary Haag 605-673-9314 ghaag@fs.fed.us
	Description: The claimant proposes to do surface exploration using hand tools. They also propose to do sampling in the existing 120 ft. deep shaft. Exploration would be done using a winch attached to an ATV to lower a person into the shaft.				
	Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - Black Hills Meridian; T2N; R4E; SE 1/4 Section 33. Access to the claim is via closed road FSR 231.1C which connects to the Mystic Road.				
Golden Meadow Placer Exploration Project CE *UPDATED*	- Minerals and Geology	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 02/2020	Expected:07/2020	07/2020	Gary Haag 605-673-9314 ghaag@fs.fed.us
	Description: The proposal is to determine the value and extent of the gold bearing gravels on the claim. Test holes (approximately 75) will be dug in a grid pattern, approximately 50-100 ft. apart across the proposed exploration area.				
	Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - Black Hills Meridian; T1S, R7E, NE1/4 Section 18. Access to the claim will be via NFSR 449 (Gondola Road) to the Taylor Quarry. At the quarry an existing two-track branches off to the northeast which directly accesses the claim.				
Green Garnet Placer Mine CE *UPDATED*	- Minerals and Geology	Completed	Actual: 10/10/2018	12/2018	Gary Haag 605-673-4853 ghaag@fs.fed.us
	Description: The claimant is seeking permission to access an area of his claim via 0.35 miles of closed road. No mechanized mining will be conducted; it will strictly be a pick & Shovel type operation.				
	Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - T1N, R4E, Sections 21 & 22. Approximately 6.75 miles northwest of Hill City, SD. 0.6 miles South-Southwest of Slate Creek Dam on south side on NFSR 530.				
Phase II Pactola Basin Rapid Creek Habitat Restoration CE *UPDATED*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/25/2018	Expected:11/2019	11/2019	Steven Hirtzel 605-673-9200 shirtzel@fs.fed.us
	Description: Improve trout habitat and stream stability of Rapid Creek below Pactola Basin through the use of natural materials such as log and boulder structures.				
	Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. T1N R5E Sections 1 & 2. The project area is between Tamarack Gulch and Placerville Church camp. Approximately 1.6 miles long.				

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Black Hills National Forest	Mystic Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R2 - Rocky Mountain Region	
Schuetzle Company Production, LLC, PAH741; Commercial Filming SUP CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Rodney Brown 605-343-1567 rwbrown@fs.fed.us
	Description: Commercial Filming Special Use Permit. Film crew will be shooting at selected random locations and stops located on NFSRs on the MVUM.				
	Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Meade, Pennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Dakota Point Picnic Area, Off Hwy 16, Falling Rock area, Steamboat Picnic Area and natural rock maze. NFSR 434, 354.1C, 597, 706.1.				
Three Lake Recreation Events Special Use Permits CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Completed	Actual: 07/10/2019	07/2019	Shirlene Haas 605-343-1567 shaas@fs.fed.us
	Description: A 5 year permit will be issued to each recreation event. These events are all on the lake area and parking facility. 1.Pure Pactola Swim Race, 2.Club For Boys Ice Fishing Tournament. 3.Walleyes Unlimited Ice Fishing Tournament. All are 1 day events				
	Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Pactola Lake, Sheridan Lake, and Deerfield Lake.				
Triple G/Rallo's Roost Placer Mining project CE *UPDATED*	- Minerals and Geology	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 12/2019	Expected:05/2020	05/2020	Gary Haag 605-673-4853 ghaag@fs.fed.us
	Description: Prospecting in previously mined placer deposits. Most of the mining will be pick and shovel. There will be one piece of mechanized equipment; a battery powered recirculating sluice 4ft. long by 1 ft. wide. Sluice will be set in 100 gal. tank.				
	Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - Black Hills Meridian, T1N, R4E, Sections 21 & 22. Six miles west of Rapid City, South Dakota. Access is via State Highway 44 to Forest Service Road 167.				

Black Hills National Forest	Northern Hills Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)	R2 - Rocky Mountain Region
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Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Black Hills National Forest Northern Hills Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)		R2 - Rocky Mountain Region			
Aspen Hills Road Use Permit CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 09/05/2019	Expected:10/2019	10/2019	Paul Bosworth 605-642-4622 pbosworth@fs.fed.us
	Description: Aspen Hills Homeowners association has requested a road use permit to allow for re-grading of FSR 661 near the intersection of FSR 134 to reduce grade and mitigate safety hazards under icy conditions.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56761				
Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Lawrence. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Along Aspen Hills Road (FSR 661) near the intersection with Tinton Road (FSR 134) approximately 5 miles south of Spearfish, SD.					
Kelley FLPMA Road Easement CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Hillarie Jackson 605-642-4622 hljackson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Issuance of a 30-year easement to a land owner for legal access to private property. The easement would be for use of an existing non-system road approximately 0.25 long. Road work is included to bring the road up to standard.				
	Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Lawrence. LEGAL - T2N, R5E, Section 10. Three miles south of Nemo, South Dakota near Forest Service Road 201.				
Mystic Hills Guided ATV Tours CE *NEW LISTING*	- Recreation management - Special use management	Completed	Actual: 07/02/2019	07/2019	Bonnie Jones 605-642-4622 bjjones@fs.fed.us
	Description: Mystic Hills Campground has requested an outfitter and guide permit to lead guided ATV tours on National Forest System roads and trails. All roads and trails that would be used for tours are open to public use.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55829				
Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota, Wyoming. COUNTY - Lawrence, Pennington, Crook. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Motorized trails on the Northern Hills, Bearlodge and Mystic Ranger Districts. Rides would originate from Mystic Hills Campground, south of Deadwood, SD.					

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Black Hills National Forest Northern Hills Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)		R2 - Rocky Mountain Region			
Nelson FLPMA Road Easement CE *UPDATED*	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Callie Ackerman-Jasper 605-642-4622 Callie.Ackerman-Jasper@usda.gov
	Description: Issuance of a 30-year private road easement to allow a land owner legal access to his property. The easement would be along an existing unclassified road, and in return the Forest Service would be provided legal access across the private property.				
	Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Meade. LEGAL - T3N, R6E, Section 32. Approximately one mile southwest of Piedmont, South Dakota.				
Qwest Rural Fiber Optic Installation CE *NEW LISTING*	- Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/11/2019	Expected:07/2019	08/2019	Callie Ackerman 307-283-1361 callieackerman@fs.fed.us
	Description: Qwest Communications is proposing the installation of approximately 58 miles of fiber optic line within existing utility corridors across the northern Black Hills. Both underground and aboveground line would be installed.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56239				
Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Lawrence, Pennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Within existing utility corridors across the northern Black Hills.					
Red Bat Pond Dam Repair CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress: Scoping Start 09/20/2019	Expected:09/2020	10/2020	Valerie McKean 605-642-4622 valeriemckean@fs.fed.us
	Description: Repair of the existing dam to maintain important wildlife habitat at Red Bat Pond along with installation of a water line and stock tank for potential future range management use.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56883				
Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Lawrence. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Red Bat Pond, approximately four miles south of Whitewood, SD.					

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Black Hills National Forest Northern Hills Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)		R2 - Rocky Mountain Region			
Spearfish Creek Fish Habitat Improvement CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Completed	Actual: 08/22/2019	10/2019	Christopher Stores 605-642-4622 cstores@fs.fed.us
	Description: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) is planning on installing debris (trees, boulders) in Spearfish Creek to provide fish structure. They have proposed accessing the creek and hauling materials across National Forest System land.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55830				
Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Lawrence. LEGAL - Not Applicable. In Spearfish Creek, immediately north of Maurice in Spearfish Canyon.					
Tinton Trail Addition to Non-motorized Trail System CE *UPDATED*	- Recreation management	Completed	Actual: 06/28/2019	07/2019	Bonnie Jones 605-642-4622 bjones@fs.fed.us
	Description: The Tinton trail is an existing, single track trail that crosses approximately 46 miles of NFS land. The trail is currently an unofficial trail. The trail would be designated as an official NFS trail and marked as such on the ground and in brochures.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55369				
Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Lawrence. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The trail begins south of Spearfish, SD at the Forest boundary. The trail forms a lollipop loop to the south, covering approximately 46 miles, with 11 of those miles overlapping other system trails.					

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