



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2020 to 06/30/2020

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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Projects Occurring Nationwide

Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A EIS <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">*NEW LISTING*</p>	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/13/2018 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 11/2021	Expected:12/2021	12/2021	Nancy Rusho 202-731-9196 nancy.rusho@usda.gov
Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands. A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214					
Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations will be applicable to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the United States Mining Law.					

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	- 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.					

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Black Hills National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)			R2 - Rocky Mountain Region		
Rushmore Connector Trail Project EIS	- Recreation management - Special use management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	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	
Crook Country FRTA Easements CE *UPDATED*	- Land ownership management	Completed This project has changed to a CE that does not require a written decision document and will be removed from the SOPA.		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	
Lithograph Land Exchange EA	- 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.				

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	
Summit-Blacktail Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Forest products - Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/21/2020	Expected:02/2020	05/2020	Wendy Schuyler 605-673-9361 wendy.schuyler@usda.gov
Description: The project is designed to create and maintain wildfire resilient stands of timber within the project area. A combination of commercial and non-commercial treatments will be used for vegetation treatments.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57507					
Location: UNIT - Hell Canyon Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Custer, Pennington. LEGAL - Not Applicable. T02S, R01E, Sec.28-33; T03S, R01E, Sec.2-6,8,10,11,14-16,21-23,25-28,34-36; T03S, R02E, Sec.31; T04S, R02E, Sec.6; and T04S, R01E, Sec.1-3 Custer County, SD. T02S,R01E,Sec.7-9, 16-21 Pennington Co SD.					
Virginia Mine CE	- 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	
Alvin Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 02/2020	Expected:06/2020	07/2020	Randall Rick 605-343-1567 randall.rick@usda.gov
Description: The Alvin Project proposes the removal of poor-formed ponderosa pine stock within the historic 1939 McVey burn area and improving the growth, vigor and health of the pine that survived the fire.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57579					
Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - T01N R03E Sections 13, 23-26,36; T01N R04E Sections 7-9, 13-36; T01N R05E Sections 17-21, 28-34; T01S R05E Sections 1, 3-10. Northwest of Hill City, SD.					

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	- 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	- 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.				
Jenny Gulch Exploration Drilling Project EA *NEW LISTING*	- Minerals and Geology - Special use management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 01/06/2020	Expected:11/2020	11/2020	Gary Haag 605-673-9200 gary.haag@usda.gov
	Description: This project includes diamond core drilling at up to 42 drill sites, access road maintenance (as needed), drill pad clearing (as needed), and reclamation activities.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57428				
Location: UNIT - Mystic Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Pennington. LEGAL - Sections 19, 30, 31, T2N R5E and Sections 13, 14, 24, 25, T2N R4E. North of Silver City, SD.					

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Black Hills National Forest	Mystic Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R2 - Rocky Mountain Region	
Triple G/Rallo's Roost Placer Mining project CE	- 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	
Clarity Telecom Gilt Edge Road Installation CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/18/2019	Expected:04/2020	06/2020	Callie Ackerman-Jasper 605-642-4622 Callie.Ackerman-Jasper@usda.gov
	Description: Installation of new underground utility line via trenching for approximately 1030 feet across NFS lands. Trenching will occur via excavator to a width of 24 inches. Anchors will be installed at existing poles.				
	Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Lawrence. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Approximately two miles south of Deadwood, SD, and one mile north of the Strawberry Hill Picnic Ground.				
Qwest Rural Fiber Optic Installation CE	- 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.				

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Black Hills National Forest	Northern Hills Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R2 - Rocky Mountain Region	
Red Bat Pond Dam Repair CE	- 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.				
Ventsam Road Use Permit and Utility Installation CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/18/2019	Expected:04/2020	05/2020	Callie Ackerman-Jasper 605-642-4622 Callie.Ackerman-Jasper@usda.gov
	Description: Mr. Ventsam would like to use FSR 247.1 as access to his property. Maintenance including graveling, blading, and snowplowing would occur. 300 ft. of powerline would be extended from existing nearby overhead lines.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57382				
	Location: UNIT - Northern Hills Ranger District. STATE - South Dakota. COUNTY - Lawrence. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Approximately 5 miles south of Deadwood, SD, immediately west of US Highway 385.				

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