



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Black Hills National Forest
Bearlodge Ranger District**

Area and Trail Closure

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands and trails in the Bearlodge Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the “Described Area and Trail”):

1. Going into or being upon the Described Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e).
2. Being on the Described Trail. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(a).

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting service in the performance of an official duty.

DESCRIBED AREA AND TRAIL

The Described Area includes a portion of the Cook Lake Recreation Area and the Described Trail includes a segment of NFS Trail #88.

The Described Area is with Township 53 North, Range 63 West, Section 10 and Section 15. The Described Area includes sixty-nine acres of NFS lands extending west of Cook Lake and southwest of Cook Lake’s southern tip. The Described Area is enclosed on the western, northern, and southern sides by a fence.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health and safety by closing the Described Area and Trail due to the ongoing risk of landslides.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from Monday, August 1, 2023, at 8:00AM through August 1, 2028, at 4:30PM, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area and Trail is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/blackhills/alerts-notices>.
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Bearlodge Ranger District in Sundance, Wyoming, (307) 283-1361, and Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office in Custer, South Dakota, (605) 673-9200, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in or on the same Described Area and Trail.

Signed and issued on August 1, 2023 .

Toni Strauss
Acting Forest Supervisor
Black Hills National Forest

cc: Patrick Champa, Emily Reif, Ralph Adam, Bradley Block, and Karl Emanuel