

Bighorn National Forest Plan Revision

WE WANT YOU!

The Bighorn National Forest is extending an invitation to people interested in participating in the Revision process to join us on field trips to the mountain and to be a part of the Recreation and Travel Management Work Group

FIELD TRIPS ON THE MOUNTAIN PLANNED

The Bighorn National Forest, local Conservation Districts, and the County Commissioners would like to invite you to join us on two Forest Plan Revision field trips scheduled for July 21st and August 4th. The first one will be on the south end of the Forest along U.S. Highway 16, and the second on the north end along U.S. Highway 14. Our goal is to give people the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas, learn new things, and stimulate ongoing dialogue about managing the Bighorn National Forest. We'll make a variety of stops along the way at places that will highlight a wide range of land management issues, how and if they relate to the task of revising the Forest Plan, and where we might head from here. People from a broad cross-section of user groups and agencies have expressed interest in participating in the field trips and we hope you will join in, share your ideas, and perhaps learn new things or points of view about management of the Bighorn National Forest.

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RECREATION/TRAVEL MANAGEMENT WORK GROUPS

Recreation use on the Bighorn National Forest has steadily increased since the 1985 Forest Plan was developed. The Forest Service and the public both recognize the need to address recreation and travel management issues during the revision process. One way to begin identifying ways to reduce conflicts and still provide recreation opportunities is to form a working group comprised of people interested in addressing these issues. Our objectives are to share and learn about the importance of different recreation uses and travel patterns, to appreciate the complexity of planning for and balancing recreation use, and identify possible solutions to some of the recreation and travel management issues.

If you are interested in participating in such a work group, please attend the first meetings in Buffalo or Greybull. The Buffalo meeting will be held on August 14, 2001, at Colonel Bozeman's. We will meet at the Elk's Club on August 16th in Greybull. Both meetings begin at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Trish Clabaugh at (307) 674-2683.

Field Trips on the Mountain Planned *(continued from page 1)*

Everyone will meet at the Big Horn Ski Lodge (near Meadowlark Lake) on July 21, 2001 for the field trip on the south end. We'll depart at 9:00 am in buses, making stops along the way and return to the Lodge for lunch. Those wishing to participate for only half a day can leave or join the group. We'll depart at 1:00 pm for new destinations, returning to the Lodge at 4:00 pm. The second trip on the northern end of the Forest will start at Bear Lodge on August 4, 2001. We'll keep to the same schedule as described above.

If enough people are interested, lunch (a sandwich/salad bar buffet) will be available for around \$6-9. Of course, you are welcome to bring your own lunch if you'd prefer. Walk-ins are welcome the day of the field trip, but an RSVP by July 6 would be most helpful so we can better plan transportation and the number of lunches we will need. Mail in the form provided in this newsletter, call (307) 674-2600, or e-mail us (bbornong@fs.fed.us or jstrong@fs.fed.us) with this information, questions, or suggestions.

We look forward to seeing you!

YES! I am interested in the July 21 or August 4 field trip on Forest Plan Revision.

Name _____

Additional People _____

Northern/Southern
Field Trip _____

Morning/Afternoon/
All Day Attendance _____

Interested in sandwich/
salad buffet (about \$6-9) _____

Please:

- E-mail your RSVP to jstrong@fs.fed.us or bbornong@fs.fed.us OR
- Call in your RSVP to 674-2600 OR
- Mail this form to: Bighorn NF, 2013 Eastside 2nd St., Sheridan, WY 82801
- PLEASE RSVP by July 6.

The Revision Path for 2001: Assess Existing Condition and Build Relationships

Despite all the recent developments concerning the Roadless and Planning Rules, the Bighorn Revision will continue, for the most part, along the course described in the February newsletter, which emphasized assessing existing conditions and building relationships.

The reason we can continue on our path is that the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, as amended by the National Forest Management Act, *have not changed*. These are the primary laws that define how National Forests will conduct Forest Plans, and the planning rules are guidance on how to apply those laws.

Since the last newsletter, we have focused on compiling watershed assessments. The watersheds are the nine major drainages: Tensleep, Paintrock, Shell, Devil's Canyon, Little Bighorn, Tongue, Goose, Piney/Rock, and Clear/Crazy Woman/Powder. These reports include information on the vegetation, wildlife, human uses, soils, and water resources. Once these reports are compiled around September 1, we will combine them, along with additional information best displayed and considered at the National Forest scale, into a forest-wide existing condition assessment. This information will be shared with people, so that everyone involved and interested in the Plan Revision will be able to consider, analyze and discuss the current status of the Forest using the same base information. *Please contact us if you have additional information to share in this process!*

Concerning the relationship building, which began with the public meetings held from October to January, the next major public event is the field trips. In addition, people can attend steering committee meetings, invite Forest Plan interdisciplinary team members to visit with your group, review the information that is posted on the website, or simply call a revision team member to ask questions or tell us what you think.

Issues

Thank you to those of you that have contributed issues and comments, either through participating in the initial round of public meetings, through e-mails, written letters, or verbally. At least 300 individuals or groups have commented to date.

Comments have covered about every topic area imaginable, from preservation to commodity utilization. A summary of the comments reviewed through May 29, 2001 are posted at the Forest Plan Revision website, at www.fs.fed.us/r2/bighorn, click on Forest Plan. We do not consider this a complete list, since we continue to accept comments and issues, and some that we have received have not yet been added to the list.

How comments will be used: There are many tasks in revising the plan, from developing alternatives and monitoring strategies to effects analysis. Nearly all of the comments received to date will be used in some part of the revision process. The following table gives examples of how comments will be used in various revision tasks. We are continuing to consider and review comments, and expect to have information similar to this for all of people's comments by this fall.

Sample Comments	How Comments Will be Considered
Maintain soil productivity and water quality	Soils and water are protected by numerous laws, including the National Forest Management Act and the Clean Water Act. Revision tasks will be developing monitoring protocols and standards for protection , and an effects analysis to estimate the revision's impact, or restoration, on these resources.
Increase grazing fees	Congress sets grazing fees; this is not a revision topic .
Increase motorized recreation opportunities. Provide more non-motorized areas.	Comments from both sides of this issue were received, and this is considered to be a major revision topic that will help alternatives . The recreation/travel work groups are being held to devote extra effort and consideration to these issues.
Provide timber harvest opportunities. Manage fuels to decrease fire risk. Improve wildlife habitat.	How to manage the forests is a major revision topic that will help alternatives . As can be seen from just a sample of the comments, this is a multi-faceted issue.

Integrating Science and Human Values

This is the third in a continuing series of articles about the Revision of the Bighorn National Forest Plan that appeared as editorials in local newspapers.

Management of the Bighorn National Forest, as with all public land management, must integrate scientific knowledge with the objectives and values of the 280 million landowners of the National Forests. This article will explore how these two seemingly contradictory aspects of public land management are integrated.

Science The numerous laws governing National Forest System lands and Forest Service planning regulations require that management actions be sustainable into the future. Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Scientific information is essential in making a sustainability determination.

The plan revision will have a wealth of scientific information to consider. Dr. Dennis Knight of the University of Wyoming is compiling a report on the Historic Range of Variability of the Bighorn Mountains. Wildlife and botany experts at the University of Wyoming have compiled a series of reports on the biodiversity of the Bighorns. Forest Service biologists are working with Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologists on species management issues. There are several plant, soil and watershed databases to display effects of different management paths, and vegetation computer modeling tools will be used to estimate how the forest will grow and change into the future.

Human Values People have used the resources of the Bighorn Mountains for millennia, and one of the missions of the National Forests are to provide a variety of multiple uses for current and future generations. The 280 million landowners of the Bighorn National Forest have a variety of objectives as to which, and how much, of those uses should occur. Some of these objectives are codified in the laws and regulations governing National Forest management.

At the public meetings held in November through January, the wide variety of landowner opinion was evident. Some people expressed a desire to preserve additional areas as Wilderness, while others wanted more motorized access. While most people wanted to see a

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Integrating Science and Human Values *(continued from page 5)*

sustainable level of timber harvest, some said there should be no timber harvest. These opinions will be considered, along with the scientific information compiled and the laws and regulations that guide National Forest management, in making the final revision decisions.

Integrating Science and Values A good example of the integration is how alternative management strategies are developed, analyzed, and finally, selected. Alternatives can be thought of as different paths, or trajectories, to follow into the future. Science will be used to estimate the effects of each potential future path and to assess sustainability. All of the paths will be sustainable since that is required by law. Science, such as computer modeling and comparisons with similar ecosystems, will be used to display the long term tradeoff effects of each potential path. Science will be used to monitor the effects of the plan, to insure that the initial sustainability determinations were accurate. Human values will be considered throughout the alternative development process, but especially at the selection time, when a final decision will be made as to which path should be followed. *Science can define the consequences of each path, but human values are necessary to define which path is "best" at this point in time.* For example, a range of timber harvest levels is sustainable, and people have already expressed a wide variety of preferred levels. Another example is how much of the Forest should be reserved for non-motorized winter recreation use. Science can define the minimum amount of non-motorized area necessary for wildlife calving areas and other wildlife needs, but it is up to people to define the "preferred" amount above that.

In the end, one path, or alternative, will be selected based upon an integration of science and human values. Scientifically based monitoring will be used to identify "course corrections" that may be necessary in the future, as we continue to use and manage the Bighorn National Forest.

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Roadless and Planning Rules: What's Up?

As you may have heard, some of our rules, the guidelines we follow in doing planning and project implementation, are undergoing changes. A short summary of the three most prominent rules related to forest planning should provide more insight.

2000 Forest Planning Rule: On November 9, 2000, the Secretary of Agriculture adopted a final rule revising procedures for National Forest planning. However, there were problems with the implementation. Currently, a national team is working on correcting identified problems. Until the new planning rule is revised, the Bighorn National Forest will follow the 1982 rules while maintaining the concepts and philosophy of the new rule including sustainability, science and collaboration with the public. For more information on the Planning Rule go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/rule/index.html>

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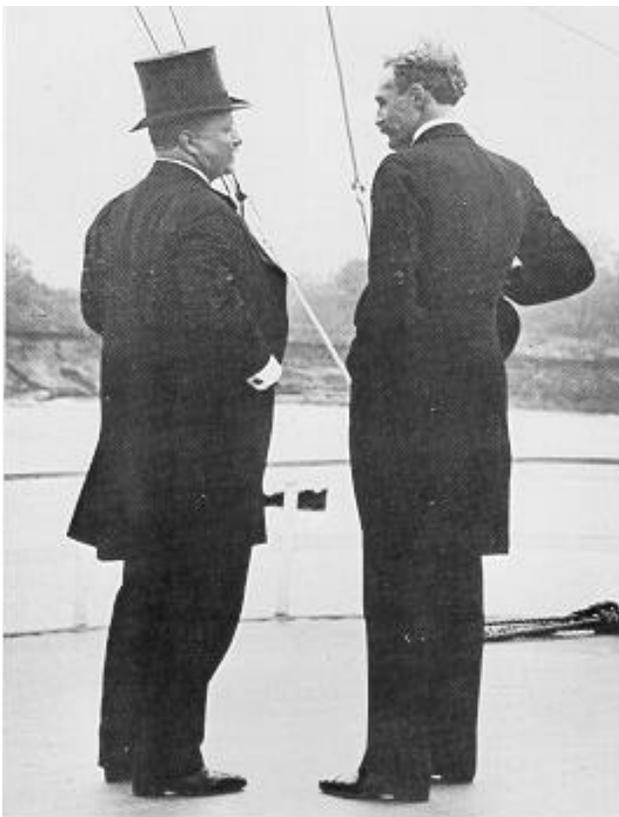
Call your neighbors and friends and invite them to the July 21 and August 4 field trips, and to the travel management work groups on August 14 and August 16.

Your involvement in the revision process will result in a better Forest Plan!

Roadless and Planning Rules: What's Up? (continued from page 7)

Roadless Rule: On January 12, 2001, final rules were published in the Federal Register establishing requirements for protecting inventoried roadless areas on National Forest land. These rules prohibited new road construction and timber harvest, except for special circumstances. On May 10, 2001, the court enjoined implementation of this Rule until the Forest Service could re-evaluate what it considered were some shortcomings, including the need for more participation by states, tribes and local communities. Until this review is complete, and the court lifts its order, the Bighorn will follow procedures adopted in the 1982 planning rule; "Roadless areas ... shall be evaluated and considered for recommendation as potential wilderness areas during the forest planning process ..." (36CFR 219.17). For more information go to: <http://www.roadless.fs.fed.us>

Roads Policy: A new national Roads Management Policy was published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2000. These rules shift emphasis from developing new roads to managing the ones we have. The Bighorn will complete a forest-wide Roads Analysis as part of the Revision efforts. For more information go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads/>



"Forestry is the preservation of forests by wise use....forestry means making the forests useful not only to the settler, the rancher, the miner, the [people] who live in the neighborhood, but indirectly to the [people] who may live hundreds of miles down the course of some great river which has its rise among the forest bearing mountains"

President Theodore Roosevelt, seen here speaking with Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the Forest Service, in 1907.

Meet part of the Revision Team



Kneeling: Ruth Beckwith, Joel Strong. Middle row, left to right: Deedee Arzy, Trish Clabaugh, Ann Blankenship, Jon Warder. Back row, l to r: Phil Fessler, Mike Scanlon, Bryce Bohn, Kurt Allen, Bernie Bornong.

The purpose of this article is to give people an appreciation of the wide variety of experience and educational backgrounds the revision team has. The list of people here is not an inclusive list of revision team members; additional specialists from the University of Wyoming (social and economic), the Rocky Mountain Regional Office (Minerals/Oil/Gas), and the Bighorn are available for assistance in additional resource areas.

Kurt Allen, Entomologist
 B.S., Biology—University of Northern Iowa
 M.S., Forestry/Entomology—Iowa State University
 Employed by the Forest Service for ten years at Durham, New Hampshire and Rapid City, South Dakota. Specializes in insect and disease management and suppression and development of new technologies for insect and disease management. Revision assignments are disturbance ecology and forest health analysis.

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Additional specialists from the University of Wyoming, the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, and the Bighorn National Forest are available for assistance in the resource areas of minerals, sociology, economics, soil science, cave management, and botany, just to name a few.

Meet part of the Revision Team (continued from page 9)

Diedre Arzy, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

A.A. Sheridan Community College, 1999

10 years of mapping/computer experience on the Bighorn. Currently assigned to the Revision core team to facilitate the development, implementation, and automation of GIS mapping layers and related applications.

Ruth Beckwith, Landscape Architect

B.L.A., Kansas State University, 1979

Experience with the Forest Service since 1977 on the Pike-San Isabel National, Rio Grande, White River and Bighorn National Forests. Work experience in site development and construction, dispersed and developed recreation, scenery management, wilderness, travel management, land exchange, easement acquisition, and special use permits. Licensed Landscape Architect. Revision core team assignments in landscape aesthetics and recreation planning.

Ann Blankenship

B.S. Wildlife Conservation and Management—University of Wyoming, 1990

Minor-Spanish

Experience with the Forest Service since 1979 on the Black Hills and Bighorn National Forests. Work experience in wildlife management, fisheries, range, timber, fire, recreation, and Forest Plan Revision. Revision core team assignment as writer/editor.

Bernie Bornong, Forester

B.S. Iowa State University, 1981

Experience with the Forest Service since 1977 on the Idaho Panhandle, Bighorn, Gila and Black Hills National Forests. Work experience in silviculture and forest ecology; timber sale preparation and contract administration; developed and dispersed recreation; and Wilderness. Certified Silviculturist. Revision assignments of biological diversity, silviculture and forest ecology, social and economic.

Bryce A. Bohn, Hydrologist

Master of Science (M.S.) – Fisheries. Utah State University. 1998

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) – Forest Hydrology. University of Montana. 1990

Associate of Arts (A.A.) – Forestry. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M. 1984

Eleven years of experience as an interdisciplinary aquatic specialist managing for healthy aquatic and riparian ecosystems on public lands in the west. Since 1998, Forest hydrologist and aquatic program leader on the Bighorn National Forest. Currently responsible for the air, soil, water, and fish programs on the Forest. Hydrologist on the Kootenai National Forest in northwest Montana for eight years.

Trish Clabaugh, Recreation Planner

B.S. Recreation and Park Administration, University of Wyoming

M.P. Natural Resource Planning, University of Wyoming

Experience working with University of Wyoming, Bureau of Land Management in Baker, Oregon 1990 as an outdoor recreation planner, five years on the Routt National Forest plan revision team as a core team member, five years experience on the Bighorn National Forest as district recreation staff and NEPA coordinator. Focus on Bighorn plan revision will be on recreation and travel management.

Phillip Fessler, Civil Engineer

B.S., Civil Engineering, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

10 years of experience with the Forest Service, since 1990 on the Shoshone and Bighorn National Forests. Work experience in the fields of timber, range, fire, recreation, and engineering. Licensed professional engineer in Wyoming. Revision tasks shall include forest wide roads analysis and travel management.

Mike F. Scanlon (Data Management / Analysis / Modeling)

B.S. Forest Management; M.S. Forestry Economics and Marketing

Fifteen years experience with the Forest Service, including 9 years experience in forest planning analysis, 3 years as the Tongue District Recreation Staff and 6 years of seasonal field experience in fire management and silvicultural operations. Previous forest planning experience on the Bighorn, Willamette and Fremont National Forests.

Joel B. Strong - Planning Staff Officer (Forester)

Associate, Forest Technician; B.S. Forest Science; M.S. Forest Resources (Recreation Management)

Twenty-five years experience with the Forest Service primarily in recreation administration and management including work on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, Routt National Forest in Colorado, San Bernardino National Forest in California, Tongass National Forest in Alaska, Northeast Forest Experiment Station in Kentucky and the Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming.

Jon Warder, Wildlife Biologist

B.S. Colorado State University, 1991

Experience with the Forest Service since 1989 on the Black Hills, Humboldt-Toiyabe, Uinta, and Bighorn National Forests. Work experience in wildlife surveys; habitat improvement projects and habitat mapping; project analysis; range administration; forest plan revision. Revision core team assignments of terrestrial wildlife and threatened, endangered, and sensitive species analysis and habitat needs.

While times have changed since 1914 when this Ranger patrolled the Wasatch National Forest, several of the revision team members have had this experience in their careers. Team members have a wide range of work experience and education, which will provide a broad perspective while working on the revision.



Bighorn National Forest

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We're on the web!
www.fs.fed.us/r2/bighorn

Please Join Us for Field Trips on July 21 or August 4!



We can guarantee your field trip will be more comfortable than this adventure! We'll be riding in comfortable buses, on good roads, and have comfortable surroundings at Big Horn Ski Lodge (July 21) and Bear Lodge (August 4). Please see Page 1 of the newsletter for details on the field trips.