

The State of the Forest Fiscal Year 2003

Our responsibility to the Nation is to be more than careful stewards of the land; we must be constant catalysts for positive change....”

~ Gifford Pinchot

A Message from the Forest Supervisor

To the American People:

“The object of forestry is to discover and apply the principles according to which forests are best managed,” Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the Forest Service, wrote in *A Primer of Forestry* in 1899. More than one hundred years later, Pinchot's Forest Service sons and daughters are still hard at work to discover correct principles and manage national forests to best meet your needs, serving in the role of public interest stewards and charged with providing leadership for natural resource and environmental policy and practices on a host of contentious forestry issues.

Through the years we have discovered that forest management is dynamic, fluid, and multi-faceted. Increasingly we find ourselves articulating and meeting shared interests across a galaxy of issues that Pinchot could not have anticipated. And increasingly we find willing hands, willing hearts, and men and women of character equal to the task.

America's national forests are the only wild lands most of us will ever own. We feel strongly about how our collective forests are managed, and we depend on our forests for many of those special things that make life worth living, such as clean air and water, homes for fish and wildlife, and forest products that make our lives more abundant and comfortable.

I am pleased to present a brief overview of our 2003 achievements in the public interest on the Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota and Wyoming. These short narratives, photos, and statistics summarize some of our most important work through the year and serve as a report card to you, the American people, who own these lands and to whom we are responsible.

- ❑ **Making forests and communities fire-worthy:** The planning as well as 70 percent of the on-the-ground work on the Beaver Park and Norbeck legislated areas [Public Law 107-206] has been completed. We have cleared heavily insect-infested areas of dead and dying trees, built fuel breaks, and thinned overgrown forests. The Prairie project near Rapid City is a major effort to treat the wildland urban interface, homes at the edge of the forest, using a variety of treatments to ensure that the forest and the people who live there will be safe from catastrophic fires.
- ❑ **National Forest Advisory Board:** Established in 2003, the advisory board is charged with learning about forest management and then advising the Forest Supervisor about management decisions. The board has wrestled with fire and insect problems, the challenges of an increasingly fragmented forest, and understanding major management techniques including prescribed fire.
- ❑ **Phase II Amendment:** We developed fire hazard, forest growth, forest structure, insect risk, and yield relationships for modeling in support of fuels, mountain pine beetle, and species viability analysis to be used in the Phase II Forest Plan Amendment. By fall 2003 we completed initial analyses of how these relationships work together over time,

but further refinements were found necessary to adequately represent Phase II decision effects. A Phase II Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected to be released in June 2004.

- ❑ **Red Point Fire:** The largest wildfire in 2003 burned 18,000 acres south and east of Newcastle, Wyoming. Interagency fire crews fought the fire for over three weeks in July and August and stopped it when the fire left the forested mountains and began burning in the grass at the forest edge. Interagency cooperation at the combined fire dispatch center proved effective.

As always, the outstanding employees on the Black Hills National Forest went beyond the call of duty to assure that the Forest met its targets and goals and did so safely and carefully. I am grateful for their devotion and skill that make this important work possible.

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Black Hills National Forest

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FOREST FACTS

Timber Output *board feet*

Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)
Sawtimber 83.8 million
Products Other
than Logs (POL) 1.0 million

Timber Offered
Sawtimber and POL 70.5 million

Timber Harvested
Sawtimber and POL 67.7 million
Value \$6,924,192

Timber Stand
Improvement 5,086 acres thinned

Personal Use Firewood 4,043 cords
Value \$20,215
Free Use Firewood 5,827 cords

Christmas Trees
Individual 5,487 trees
Value \$43,932
Commercial sales 0 trees
Value \$0

Recreation Use **Visitor Days*

Biking 27,900
Camping 241,400
Canoeing, Sailing 11,700
Fishing 173,400
Hiking 173,000
Horseback Riding 58,000
Hunting 45,800
Interpretive Viewing 16,500
Motorized travel 2,133,100
Nature Study 71,000
Organization Camping 5,900
Picnicking 33,000
Recreation Residences 89,500
Resorts 8,200
Team Sports & Games 8,300
Viewing Scenery 240,200
Winter Sports 128,200
Water Sports 28,000
Other 51,700
TOTAL Recreation Use 3,544,800
Wilderness Use (Included in total) 36,000

TOTAL # of Visitors to Forest 3,580,800

**1 Visitor Day is 1 person for 12 hours*

Or 12 people for 1 hour on the Forest

Roads & Trails	<i>Miles</i>
Forest System Roads (FSR)	4,839
FSR - Decommissioned	12.7
FSR - Maintained	1,537
FSR - New construction	5.2
FSR - Reconstruction	48.2
Trails	346.5
Trails - Construction/Reconstruction	10.2

Range Management

Allotments	130
Grazing Permittes	262
Animal Unit Months	
(AUM's*) permitted	124,993
Cattle Permitted	23,409
<i>*AUM's calculated using cow-calf 1.32 conversion factor</i>	
	<i>Acres</i>
Noxious Weeds Treated	14,700

Heritage Resources

Field Surveys	123
Public Education Programs	23
Sites Evaluated	480
Sites Interpreted	6
Total Recorded Sites	6,154
Volunteer Hours	1,784

Wildlife Habitat

Fish Habitat (Streams) Enhanced	1 mile
Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat	
Enhanced	2,446 acres
Fish/Wildlife Educational	
Events/Products	11 items

Special Land Designation *acres*

Black Elk Wilderness	13,426
<i>Part of Norbeck, Public Law 96-560</i>	
<i>Established December 22, 1980</i>	
Black Hills Experimental Forest	3,402
<i>Established September 10, 1962</i>	
Norbeck Wildlife Preserve	33,656
<i>Established June 5, 1920</i>	
Sturgis Watershed	1,075
Upper Pine Creek Natural Area	1,190
Part of Black Elk Wilderness & Norbeck	
<i>Established July 3, 1932</i>	

Land Adjustments

Land Acquired	1,135
Land Conveyed	414

Total Land Areas

Gross Acreage 1,531,729

Net Acreage 1,247,209

*Gross acreage includes all ownerships,**Net acreage includes only Federal lands.***Fire Management****Wildfires** 2003 calendar yr

15 Person Caused 521 acres

81 Lightning 11,145 acres

96 TOTAL 11,666 acres

Hazardous Fuels 2003 fiscal yr

Mechanical Treatment 6,705 acres

Prescribed Fires 3,481 acres

TOTAL acres treated 10,186 acres

Recreation Facilities

Boating Sites 7

Campgrounds 32

(Family – 26, Group – 3, Horse – 3)

Fire Lookouts 8

Fishing Sites 9

Information Sites 7

Interpretive Sites 1

Overlooks 4

Picnic Areas 27

Swimming Beaches 4

Trailheads 54

TOTAL Developed Sites 153

Special Use Permits

Communication Sites 30

Concession Recreation Permits 1

Marinas 2

Organization Camps 2

Outfitter/Guide Permits 41

Road Easements/Permits 304

Summer Homes 164

Other (Agriculture, Research, Utilities,

Water, Misc.) 174

TOTAL Permits 718

Human Resource Programs

Permanent Employees 278

Seasonal Employees 292

Hosted Program 27 Workers

Person-Years of Work 1.49 Years

Hours Worked 2,688

Value of Work \$50,676

Senior Community Service Employment**Program (SCSEP)** 19 Workers

Hours of Work 13,361 Hours

Value of Work \$185,374

Tribal Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

	24 Workers
Person-Years of Work	1.91 Years
Hours Worked	3,254
Value of Work	\$29,522

Volunteers

	30 Workers
Person-Years of Work	1.72 Years
Hours Worked	3,122 Hours
Value of Work	\$37,997

Youth Conservation Corps (Bearlodge RD)

Person-Years of Work	.89
Hours Worked	1,600
Value of Work	\$9,889

Jasper Aspen Restoration Project

After the Jasper Fire, we were concerned that cattle and wildlife could seriously damage regenerating aspen. The Black Hills National Forest, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks developed a cooperative agreement to monitor aspen use and build enclosures around selected aspen clones. The project included constructing 30 aspen enclosures including buck and pole, deer netting, eight-foot woven wire, and four-wire cattle fences. We monitored 18 aspen clones for browse use throughout the year. The effort has been highly successful and aspen are once again plentiful.

Tribal Youth Conservation Corps Program

Young people from the Sioux nations once again showed that people can have fun, learn life's great lessons, and get much accomplished in a summer work program. Twenty young people ages 16 to 18 from the Cheyenne River, Rosebud, Standing Rock, and Yankton Sioux Tribes developed job skills and learned about forest management while working on a variety of projects. Four returning enrollees, now supervisors, also participated in the six-week program. Program participants worked a total of 3,298 hours doing fence construction, fuel reduction, noxious weed abatement, stream restoration, and trail construction and maintenance. In the evenings the group learned about Bear Butte, careers in wildfire fighting, traditional Lakota plant use, and wildlife. Educational field trips included the Craven Canyon rock art site, Crazy Horse Monument, Devils Tower National Monument, Jewel Cave National Monument, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial. The forest recognized the enrollees for their accomplishments during a December 2003 ceremony at the Lakota Invitational Basketball Tournament in Rapid City, SD.

Battle Creek Fire Rehabilitation

Interest in slowing the Battle Creek post-fire runoff to reduce resource damage to the surrounding area prompted the forest to reconstruct almost 68 miles of roads. Work included: clearing culverts and ditches of debris and sediment; removing culverts too small to pass expected flows; reshaping road prisms and installing surface rolling dips to improve drainage; armoring rolling dips and filling slopes with rip rap to protect them from erosion; spot graveling areas with high erosion potential and graveling areas where fire suppression efforts had damaged the surface, causing increased runoff. We decommissioned unnecessary roads to reduce damage the 2002 fire caused.

The Historic Curran and Gorman Cabins: Passport In Time Preservation Projects

When J.W. Curran and his wife Katherine built a log cabin near Rochford in the late 1800s, they had no idea that 100 years later Forest Service Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers would be restoring the cabin and learning about life on a historic Black Hills gold mining claim. Volunteers from around the nation gathered to rebuild the stone foundation, replace rotten logs, place sound logs back in original positions, excavate artifacts under the original floor, and construct a new floor. A Minnesota high school volunteer group recorded historic artifact dumps. Additionally, the PIT group restored the historic Gorman cabin near Deerfield. The forest is preparing interpretive signs highlighting the lives and times of the Curran and Gorman families during the Black Hills gold rush of the late 1800s.

Horsethief Lake Accessible Fishing Boardwalk

People who like to fish but experience difficulty accessing streams and lakes now have a raised boardwalk and fishing platform along the east shore of the lake. The most popular campground on the forest, Horsethief Lake Recreation Area, is two miles from Mount Rushmore National Memorial along the Peter Norbeck National Scenic Byway. Other improvements at the site include a new accessible trail and pedestrian bridge that connect the day-use area with the campground. This project was designed to reduce erosion along the lakeshore while increasing recreation opportunities for all. An ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) grant provided 72 percent of the funding for this project.

FOREST FINANCES

Forest Revenue Program

	Dollars
Land Use Fees	\$51,652
Livestock Grazing Fees	\$107,460
Minerals Fees	\$17,191
Powerline Fees	\$37,856
Recreation Admission & User Fees	\$25,973
Recreation Special Uses Fees	\$142,117
Timber Program	\$6,924,192
TOTAL	\$7,306,441

Miscellaneous Receipts

Brush Disposal Co-op Deposits	\$511,859
Quarters	\$56,809
Roads & Other Co-op Deposits	\$353,699
Miscellaneous Receipts TOTAL	\$922,367

FOREST REVENUE TOTAL **\$8,228,808**

Payments to Counties

<i>SD Counties</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>FY03 25% Payment</i>	<i>FY03 PILT</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Custer	311,329	\$1,088,125	\$127,082	\$1,215,207
Fall River	46,876	\$163,684	\$326,174	\$489,858
Lawrence	273,672	\$949,552	\$50,652	\$1,000,204
Meade	45,208	\$150,457	\$53,539	\$203,996
Pennington	394,733	\$1,378,808	\$406,566	\$1,785,374
SD Total	1,071,818	\$3,730,626	\$964,013	\$4,694,639
 <i>WY Counties</i>	 <i>Acres</i>	 <i>FY03 25% Payment</i>	 <i>FY03 PILT</i>	 <i>Totals</i>
Crook	168,892	\$435,486	\$182,313	\$617,799
Weston	6,499	\$19,324	\$220,430	\$239,754
WY Total	175,391	\$454,810	\$402,743	\$857,553

Forest Totals **1,247,209** **\$4,185,436** **\$1,366,756** **\$5,552,192**

Forest Expenditures

National Forest System

Fire Rehabilitation & Restoration	\$281,800
Forest Products	\$4,753,200
Grazing Management	\$470,000
Inventory & Monitoring	\$345,100
Land Management Planning	\$1,516,000
Land Ownership Management	\$672,400
Law Enforcement	*\$0

Minerals & Geology Management	\$370,600
Recreation/Heritage/Wilderness Management	\$900,300
Vegetation & Watershed Management	\$881,200
Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management	\$330,900
National Forest System Total	\$10,521,500

Capital Improvement

Facility Capital Improvement & Maintenance	\$5,517,100
Road Capital Improvement & Maintenance	\$3,199,300
Trail Capital Improvement & Maintenance	\$344,500
Capital Improvements Total	\$9,060,900

Fire

Emergency Suppression & Rehabilitation	\$6,405,400
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (NFCC)	\$352,713
Hazardous Fuels Reduction (WFHF)	\$2,371,316
Wildland Fire Preparedness	\$3,026,700
Fire Total	\$12,156,129

Miscellaneous Funds

Brush Disposal	\$286,900
Deferred Maintenance	\$109,000
Economic Action, Fire Protection & Pilot	\$120,000
Economic Action Programs	\$45,400
Federal Highways	\$10,000
Forest Health, Federal Lands	\$206,800
Hazardous Waste	\$22,600
Land Acquisition	\$99,400
Knutson-Vanderberg Cooperative Work	\$2,236,100
Other Co-op Work	\$626,000
Payments to States–County Projects	\$60,000
Quarters Operations & Maintenance	\$38,200
Range Betterment	\$68,100
Reforestation Trust	\$200,000
Roads & Trails for States, 10% Fund	\$333,000
Salvage Sales	\$1,885,900
Senior Community Employment Program	\$95,900
Timber Roads Purchaser Election	\$197,600
Miscellaneous Funds Total	\$6,640,900

FOREST TOTAL **\$38,379,429**

**Support funds for law enforcement held in WO/RO*

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