

# **Bighorn National Forest Trails Strategy**

**January 2005**

Updated Annually



# Bighorn National Forest Trails Strategy

**Recommended By:** /s/Kevin C. Khung                      **Date**1/29/2005  
Kevin Khung, Forest Recreation Staff

**Recommended By:** /s/Anna Jones-Crabtree                      **Date**1/20/2005  
Anna Jones-Crabtree  
Forest Engineer

**Recommended By:** /s/Dave Sisk                                      **Date**1/20/2005  
Dave Sisk  
Medicine Wheel/Paintrock District Ranger

**Recommended By:** /s/Craig L. Yancey                              **Date**1/20/2005  
Craig L. Yancey  
Tongue District Ranger

**Recommended By:** /s/Mark Booth                                      **Date**1/20/2005  
Mark Booth  
Powder River District Ranger

**Approved By:** /s/William T. Bass                                      **Date**1/28/2005  
William T. Bass  
Forest Supervisor

## Table of Contents

<b>I. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A. Purpose and Need.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>B. Existing Condition .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>C. Bighorn National Forest Trails Objectives.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>D. Trails Program Roles and Responsibilities.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>II. Trail Evaluation Criteria and Priorities.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>III. Trail Pod Descriptions.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>IV. Appendices</b>	
<b>A. Annual Maintenance Schedule.....</b>	<b>A-1</b>
<b>B. Heavy Maintenance/Construction/Reconstruction     Projects.....</b>	<b>B-1</b>
<b>C. Trail Rating Spreadsheet for Construction/Reconstruction.....</b>	<b>C-1</b>
<b>D. Trail Rating Spreadsheet for Annual Maintenance for     Trail Classes 3 and 4.....</b>	<b>D-1</b>
<b>E. Trail Rating Spreadsheet for Annual Maintenance for all     Trail Classes.....</b>	<b>E-1</b>

## I. Introduction

The strategy presents a system that prioritizes trails on the Bighorn National Forest for selection of maintenance and reconstruction/construction projects. Criteria and an associated rating scheme were applied to each trail to provide a High-to-Low priority list of all trails for both annual maintenance and reconstruction/construction needs. (Reference the Trail Pod Map)

The Bighorn National Forest was divided into thirteen “Trail Pods”, generally based on watershed boundaries and use patterns. Each trail pod was assigned a classification of **High**, **Moderate** and **Low** priority for reconstruction/construction (heavy) maintenance programming and Annual Maintenance. This was based on number and density of trails in the pod, use levels, and overall trail needs based on safety and resource concerns. This was a coarse filter approach utilizing available knowledge at hand.

In addition every trail in every pod is rated in terms of safety, resource protection, special designation, and trail class. A numerical rating system is used to determine which trails should receive priority for reconstruction/construction and annual maintenance work. The rating system has a range of 0 to 16. A trail with a 0 would indicate the trail meets Forest Service Standards, is in good repair, and would not need work. A trail with a rating of 16 would indicate the trail does not meet Forest Service Standards and is in very high disrepair. The higher the numerical number the greater the need for reconstruction/construction or annual maintenance on a given trail. The intent of the strategy is to use the numerical rating system as a guide to determine which trails should receive top priority for maintenance and reconstruction/construction project funding and scheduling of work.

### A. Purpose and Need

The Multiple-Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 states “National Forests are established and administered for Outdoor Recreation, range, timber, watersheds, wildlife and fish purposes”. The National Trails System Act of Oct. 1968 sets guidance for establishment and management of National Recreation, Scenic, and Historic Trails for the purpose of providing trail recreation opportunities. The National Forest Roads and Trails Act recognizes that construction and maintenance of an adequate system of roads and trails within or near National Forest is essential to meeting the increasing demand for timber, recreation, and other uses. The USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan highlights the need for improved safety and economy of Forest Service trail facilities. In response to the above laws and policies our forest commitment to maintain and improve the Bighorn National Forest Trail system is confirmed as referenced in the 1989 Bighorn Recreation Strategy. Priority Emphasis Item #4 identifies the importance of trails in The Bighorn National Forest recreation program and dovetails into the National and Regional Strategy. The strategy states the following objectives for trails:

- To reduce user conflicts on the forest trail system.
- To reduce impacts on high use areas
- To provide access to dispersed recreation opportunities.

The 1985 Bighorn National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan sets direction for trail system management specific to construction and reconstruction of trails. The current Forest Plan Revision identifies the following objective relative to trails:

- Improve the safety and economy of the Bighorn National Forest roads, trails, facilities, and operations and provide greater security for the public and employees.

The Forest Service Manual and Handbook provides further direction on management of the Forest Development Trail System to carry out the objectives and direction established in the Forest Plans, provide a diversity of trail opportunities consistent with the National Forest recreation role and land capability, to emphasize long-term cost effectiveness and need when developing or rehabilitating trail facilities, provide trail access for resource management and protection, and for inventory and transportation system planning.

For the past decade the Bighorn Nation Forest trails program has suffered from inconsistent and inadequate funding and personnel shortages. This has, in turn, led to a huge backlog of trails and/or trail segments that require attention to correct critical safety and watershed resource problems. The Accelerated Watershed/Vegetation Restoration Plan, as it stems from the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2004, emphasizes restoring watersheds and ecosystems to sustainable, healthy, functioning levels. A properly designed and maintained trail system can contribute to this plan.

This strategy was developed to provide a system to prioritize the most critical projects to move toward the Forest Service mission of “Caring for the land and serving people.”

## **B. Existing Condition**

The Bighorn National Forest trail system has evolved and developed over time as the public demand for accessing recreational pursuits such as hiking, riding, sight seeing, camping, hunting and fishing have increased. Currently the system consists of:

- **884.4 miles of Mainlines or improved Trail Class (TC3) and (TC4) – 498.48 miles of terra trail and 395.43 miles of snow trails**, a constructed trail which generally represent the trunk access through an area.
- **177.97 miles of Secondary (TC2) trail class** which generally branch off the mainline and provide access into the more difficult travel challenges. They may also form the connectors between mainlines for more thorough access and will exhibit minor constructed features installed for resource protection.
- **90.77 miles of Way (TC1) trails** which consist mainly of primitive undeveloped trails with a minimum of constructed features. TC1 trails tend to be the user created and maintained segments of the system.
- **Grand Total of 1,162.65 miles ( 767.22 miles of terra trail and 395.13 miles of snow trails)**

This is a flexible system and can be adjusted depending on demand and management priorities. The same trailhead may be used for the start and finish of a trip and trip length can be adjusted simply by accessing adjacent loops. Trail Classes (TC) are described in Appendix B, Trail Evaluation Criteria.

The Forest Trail Program has been critically under-managed since the 1993 reorganization. The program has displayed a two stage cycle; year one funding has been sufficient to employ a seasonal trail crew. Year two, due to direct labor hours, we have not had funding available to hire a seasonal trail crew. Additionally the forest had maintained a full contingent of necessary

equipment and fleet to utilize in the year crews were hired. Thus, the program was restructured and we are currently focusing on opportunities to contract trail maintenance/reconstruction, utilize volunteers and pursue partnerships.

Deterioration of the Forest Trail system bridges is at a critical stage with several bridges collapsing in the last eight years. Several other bridges are on the verge of failure and are in dire need of critical maintenance, removal or repair to prevent future failures.

From 1994 until 1999, no funds were available to conduct condition survey of the forest trail system. At the end of the summer 2002 the fourth year of GPS Meaningful Measures (MM) deferred maintenance survey totaling 300+ miles of the forest trail system was completed. Analyzing and coupling of this data with field observations by Forest personal and public trail users confirm that the high priority list of critical maintenance MM needs is increasing yearly. Overall, trail conditions on the forest continue to decline. Trail erosion with resulting resource degradation is at an unacceptable level.

### **C. Bighorn National Forest Trails Objectives**

Provide a full range of challenge levels with a broad variety of trail related activities enriching the outdoor experiences of the Forest's visitors while focusing on user safety and resource protection:

1. Correct unsafe trail situations.
2. Locate, relocate and/or maintain trails to minimize resource degradation.
3. Access to destination points or attractions such as high vistas, lakes and/or streams.
4. Access to areas for enjoying recreational pursuits such as hiking, mountain climbing, hunting, fishing, and camping.
5. Enjoyable travel experiences and /or the natural environment.
6. Snow trails providing opportunities to practice skills and get exercise.
7. Locate, relocate and/or maintain trails to provide resource protection.
8. Design trails to meet primary use: Mountain Bike, ORV, Nordic Skiing, etc.
9. Select priority maintenance and/or construction projects for funding from trail strategy-rating score.

### **D. Trails Program Roles and Responsibilities**

A critical component of a quality trails program is well defined Roles and Responsibilities as follows:

#### District Rangers:

- Approve recommendations for priority work on the unit.
- Is apprised of and reviews budget proposals and targets
- Participates in final inspections for projects.

#### Forest Recreation Staff:

- Program management oversight for quality control and consistency between district programs.
- Coordinates program management of CIP and TRTR with Forest Engineer.

- Sets priorities with district recreation staffs and Trails Program Manger.
- Develops budget and funding priorities (PWPS and Program of work) with district recreation staffs, Trails Program Manger, and Engineering).
- Coordinates, delegates, budgets and reports accomplishments of forest-level program with Engineering including:
  - Deferred Maintenance
  - Condition Surveys
  - Bridge inspections
  - Forest Plan monitoring
  - MAR reporting
  - Trail Accomplishment reporting
- Participates in evaluation and recommendation of contract proposals.
- Participates in final inspection of construction/reconstruction projects.
- Out year planning for CIP and TRTR (in coordination with district recreation staffs, Trails Program Manager, and Engineering).
- Budget tracking for CMTL.

#### Forest Engineering Staff:

- Coordinates with Forest Recreation Staff in program management of CMTL.
- Out year planning for CIP and TRTR (in coordination with forest recreation staff, district recreation staff, and Trails Program Manager).
- Participates in evaluation and recommendation of contract proposals.
- Participates in final inspection of construction/reconstruction projects.
- Leads project implementation for TRTR in coordination with engineering staffs, Forest Recreation Staff, district recreation staffs, and Trails Program Manager.
- Identifies and assists with Trails Right of Ways.

#### District Recreation Staffs:

- Assists Forest Recreation Staff with Program Management by:
  - Identify priorities and project for maintenance and reconstruction/construction through the Forest Trails Strategy.
- Completes NEPA analysis (Heritage clearance, BE/BA, etc).
- Provides logistical support for project completion.
- Leads coordination with Trails Program Manager and Engineering for layout and design and moving project to contracting.
- Leads coordination with Engineering for contract preparation (contracting needs and level of design, etc.).
- Coordinates with Engineering and Trails Program Manager on determining if project is contracted or accomplished by force account.
- Assists in evaluation and recommendation of contract proposals.
- Participates in final inspection of projects.
- Assists Trail Program Manager in INFRA input.
- Budget tracking for district specific projects.
- Volunteer project management for local groups and coordinates with Trails Program Manager on forest-wide volunteer programs.
- Trail signing management.
- Management of district Nordic ski trails (operations and maintenance).

- Participates with Forest Engineer and Forest Recreation Staff on bridge inspection schedule.
- Identifies and assists with Trails Right of Ways.

#### Trail Program Manager Supervisor and Program Coordinator:

- Supervises of Trails Program Manager including oversight of timesheets, performance evaluations, and general administration of Trails Program Manager position.
- Communicates program direction to Trails program Manager.
- Coordinates accomplishments reporting to Forest Recreation Staff.
- Assists Trails Program Manager with hiring of trail crews as needed.
- Assists with budget tracking for CMTL.

#### Trails Program Manager:

- Provides technical expertise on projects.
- Hires and supervises forest trail crew if one crew. (if have funding for district crews, this responsibility would have to be distributed accordingly to each district as they could handle).
- Lead for layout and design (with district recreation staff and engineers).
- Participates with Engineering and districts on contract preparation.
- Responsible for condition survey completion.
- Data validation of condition survey input (coordinate with Districts).
- Input of annual program of work into INFRA in coordination with district recreation staffs (includes winter and summer trails).
- Prepares and/or assists in the preparation of contracts (design and construction documents).
- Provides support for GPS survey and design.
- Assists in evaluation and recommendation of contract proposals.
- Acts as inspector and COR for trails project. (Certifications required).
- Participates in final inspection of trail projects.
- Participates in identification of priorities and projects (Trails Strategy).
- Primitive skills/tools trainer for forest.
- Coordinates with Wilderness Trails Program Manager over wilderness trails.
- Determines how time and per diem is completed for crews annually (works with districts).
- Assists Forest Rec. Staff in developing budget & funding priorities (Work Plan & Program of Work)

#### Engineering:

- Contract preparation as assigned by Forest Engineer.
- Functions as COR and inspector as needed.
- Completes bridge inspections as scheduled by Forest Engineering Staff, Forest Recreation Staff and District Recreation Staffs.
- Enters bridge inspection data into INFRA.
- Completes condition surveys as scheduled and coordinated by PROGRAM MANAGER.
- Assists with input of condition survey data.
- Provides support for GPS survey and design.

- Participates in development of program of work (includes CIP and TRTR).
- Participates in evaluation and recommendation of contract proposals.
- Participates in final inspection of projects.

## II. Trail Evaluation Criteria

The criteria listed below are to be used in evaluating and selecting trail construction, reconstruction or maintenance projects. All projects submitted for listing on the 5 Year action plan must be evaluated against these criteria, as do projects scheduled for Annual Maintenance.

Criteria for the rating process were derived from direction in the Trails Management Handbook, FSH 2309.18, Chapter 1, 1.1 - 1.6 and Condition Surveys. Safety, Resource Protection, Special Designation, Trail Class, Total Trail miles and Cloud Peak Wilderness trail miles are the rating areas. Safety and Resource Protection will be rated on a scale of 0, 1, 3, or 5 as described below. Five is the highest concern level and 0 is the lowest concern level.

**Safety:** i.e., Hazards, Risk; A measure of the magnitude of the hazard and the exposure to the hazard (number of people exposed to hazard) associated with the use of a trail. This Criterion has a strong influence on the trail ratings. In assessing the risk or hazard, the first considerations are the user type, trail management objectives, and the difficulty level of the trail being rated. Conditions that do not pose a risk to one user such as hikers may pose a hazard to a different user group such as horse riders or Off Road Vehicle (ORV) users. The risk assessment must be for the authorized type of trail users for the trail. The following guideline has been accepted for rating trails on the Bighorn National Forest.

Trail features considered when making the Safety Ratings for an individual trail included but are not limited to: out sloping tread; constructed features such as bridges, retaining walls or corduroy sections; ford/stream crossings; degree of rockiness; terrain side slope/exposure; clearing limits; tread width; trail grade; and trail marking.

Other items may be considered on a case by case basis and will be documented in the trail ratings.

Safety Rating Level	Description and Examples of Safety Rating Criteria
High = 5	There is (are) a hazard(s) that cannot be avoided and requires capital investment to correct. The cost of removing the hazard is more than typically dealt with during routine maintenance. If there is just one point on the trail that presents a hazard to life or limb, such as an unsafe ford, bridge or trail along a cliff, put that one feature in the CIP and consider the miles of trail beyond the hazard in the prioritization. Trails are usually in TC 3 or 4.
Moderate = 3	Similar to the “High” rating but the severity of the risk is less. Trails are usually in the TC 3 or 4.
Low = 1	The user of the trail appropriate for which the trail is managed is very unlikely to suffer injury to the hazard(s) present. Trails are usually in TC 1 or 2.

**Resource Protection:** A measure of the magnitude and seriousness of damage to resources. Damage could be rapid (FSH says over five years or less) loss of the trail itself by erosion of the tread, water quality degradation of significance (actually eroding into stream), vegetative loss that is permanent or would persist for many years (20+) to heal (i.e., multiple trails across a meadow that will be evident for many years), or conflict with Wilderness management objectives. Wilderness managers have opportunity here to scrub what might otherwise come out as a high ranking project because it would conflict with management objectives related to social contact, etc. This criteria is also related to use. Normally these impacts occur as a result of use and/or deferred maintenance and/or poor initial design or location of a trail. What is being measured here is what is occurring or what has already occurred, not what might occur. Consider consequences of fixing now, fixing later, doing nothing, abandoning the facility, and/or isolating or concentrating use. Meeting basic standards - does the facility meet the basic standards assigned to use, user and area resource management objectives. Overall Resource Management Objectives - as tied into the Forest Plan, present and future management. Special Forest Management Objectives for the area. Relationship of Trail to Transportation Plan - Is the facility compatible with Forest and area transportation plans, will it continue to be?

Resource Protection Rating Level	Description and Examples of Resource Protection Rating Criteria
High = 5	Problems are caused by poor location or design in terms of current and/or planned use. Problems can only be remedied by total relocation of, or a complete in-place restoration of 300' or more of trail. Major structures need to be replaced (culverts, puncheon, bridges, etc.). There are 3-5 such problems per mile of trail averaged over the whole segment. The additive length of such problems is equal to or greater than 1/3 the length of the segment.
Moderate = 3	Trail segments exhibit up to 2 of the above problems and involve over 15% of the segment.
Low = 1	Resource damage of significance is not occurring, or what is can be resolved by one of the existing maintenance levels.

**Special Designation:** Is the trail designated as a National Recreation Trail, National Historic Trail or other special designation which heightens the significance to insure maintenance is completed in a timely manner. Trail is given a 1 rating if it has a special designation. All others are given a 0 rating.

**Trail Class:** Enter the individual trail infrastructure class developed in Meaningful Measures.

Trail Attributes	Trail Class 1 Primitive/Undeveloped	Trail Class 2 Simple/Minor Development	Trail Class 3 Developed/Improved
<b>Tread &amp; Traffic Flow</b>	- Intermittent, indistinct - May require route-finding -Native materials only	-Discernable, continuous, but narrow and rough - Few or no allowances constructed for passing -Native materials	-Obvious, continuous -Width accommodates unhindered one-lane travel with occasional areas constructed for passing

<b>Trail Attributes</b>	<b>Trail Class 1 Primitive/Undeveloped</b>	<b>Trail Class 2 Simple/Minor Development</b>	<b>Trail Class 3 Developed/Improved</b>
			-Native or imported materials
<b>Obstacles</b>	-Obstructions common -Narrow passages, brush, steep grades, rocks and logs present	-Obstacles present -Blockages cleared only to define route and protect resources -Vegetation may encroach into trailway	-Infrequent obstacles -Stable, unencumbered footing -Vegetation cleared to edge or outside of trailway
<b>Signs</b>	-Minimal to non existent	-Minimum required for basic direction -Generally limited to regulation & resource protection -Few or no destination signs	-Regulation, resource protection, user reassurance -Directional signs at junctions or when confusion is likely -Destination signs may be present -Information signs may be present outside of Wilderness
<b>Immediate Environs &amp; Recreation Experience</b>	-Natural, unmodified -ROS: Typically Primitive -Wilderness: Primitive	-Natural, unmodified -ROS: Typically Primitive to Semi-Primitive -Wilderness: Primitive to Semi-Primitive	-Natural, primarily unmodified -ROS: Typically Semi-Primitive to Roded Modified setting -Wilderness: Semi-Primitive setting (to Concentrated Use Areas)
<b>Constructed Features</b>	-Minimal to non-existent -Drainage functional -No constructed bridges or foot crossing	-Structures are of limited size, scale, and number -Drainage functional -Structures adequate to protect trail infrastructure and resources -Primitive foot crossings & fords	-Trail structures (walls, steps, drainage, raised trail) may be common and substantial -Trail bridges needed -Generally native materials used in Wilderness
<b>Additional Criteria – For snow and motorized trails. Use in addition to the general criteria above.</b>			
<b>Snow Trails</b>	-Few if any markings/signs -User-defined (no grooming) -Minimal, if any, trailhead facilities	-Periodic reassurance markers -Occasionally cleared but not groomed -Typically, small roadside or road-end trailheads and trail access points, occasionally plowed	-Periodic to inter-visible marking -Periodic compaction or grooming -Typically, basic roadside or road-end trailheads with basic facilities, occasionally

<b>Trail Attributes</b>	<b>Trail Class 1 Primitive/Undeveloped</b>	<b>Trail Class 2 Simple/Minor Development</b>	<b>Trail Class 3 Developed/Improved</b>
			plowed -Information signs usually at trail access points
<b>Motorized</b>	-Criteria being developed	-Criteria being developed	-Criteria being developed
<b>Trail Attribute</b>	<b>Trail Class 4 Highly Developed</b>	<b>Trail Class 5 Fully Developed</b>	
<b>Tread &amp; Traffic Flow</b>	-Wide and relatively smooth -Generally not hardened -Width may accommodate two-lane traffic -May have imported tread materials	-Width generally accommodates two-lane traffic and two directional travel, or provides passing turnouts -Commonly hardened with asphalt or other imported material	
<b>Obstacles</b>	-Few or no obstacles exist -Grades typically < 12 % -Vegetation cleared outside of trail way	-No obstacles -Grades < 8% -Vegetation cleared outside of trail way	
<b>Signs</b>	-Wide variety of signs likely present -Interpretive & information signs may be present on trails (outside of wilderness) -Universal access information likely to displayed at trailhead	-Wide variety of signs present -Information signs present -Interpretive signs likely -Universal Access information is displayed at trailhead	
<b>Immediate Environs &amp; Recreation Experience</b>	-May be modified -ROS: Typically Roaded Natural to Rural setting -wilderness: Usually the exception, Transition to Portal setting	-Can be highly modified -ROS: Typically Rural to Urban setting -Not present in wilderness -Commonly associated with Visitor Centers or high-use recreation sites	
<b>Constructed Features</b>	-Structures may be frequent and substantial to ensure safe and easy travel -Major trail bridges are appropriate at water crossings -Trailside amenities may be present	-Structures are frequent or continuous, and may include curbs, handrails, trailside amenities, and boardwalks -Drainage structures frequent, and may include culverts & road-like designs -Trailside amenities are common	
<b>Snow Trails</b>	-Intervisible reassurance marking -Frequent grooming -Shelters may be present -Typically, frequently plowed trailhead facilities, including toilets, etc for winter users -Information may be available at trailheads and at prominent points along trail system	-Intervisible reassurance marking -Frequent or daily grooming -Shelters likely -Multiple grooming tracks, including skating (XC) -Typically, consistently plowed trailheads facilities, including toilets, etc for winter users -Interpretive displays maps,	

		information typically available at trailheads and at prominent points along trail system
<b>Motorized</b>	-Criteria being developed	-Criteria being developed

The values of each project are entered into a matrix as shown in the Spreadsheet. Filepath to the spreadsheet is K:\res\trails\1940\_Tr\_Strategy\Appendices C D E Forest trail ratings.xls. Projects are then ranked by priority groups by score, 16 being the highest score possible. The spreadsheets are included in Appendices C,D, and E.

### III. Trail Pod Descriptions and Priorities

The Bighorn National Forest is divided into 13 pods, generally based on watershed boundaries and use patterns. These pods have been classified into **High**, **Moderate** and **Low** priorities for both reconstruction/construction (heavy) maintenance and annual maintenance programming. Pod classification (H, M, or L) was based on number and density of trails in the pod, use levels, and overall trail needs based on safety and resource concerns. This was a coarse filter approach utilizing available knowledge at hand.

HIGH (H)	MODERATE (M)	LOW (L)
Pod 2 – Clear Creek <i>42 trails and 4 THs</i>	Pod 3 – Flatiron <i>49 trails and no THs</i>	Pod 1 – Powder River <i>3 trails and no THs</i>
Pod 4 – Little Goose <i>24 trails and 1 TH</i>	Pod 5 – Walker Prairie <i>31 trails and 2 THs</i>	Pod 7 – Dry Fk/L. Big Horn <i>12 trails and no THs</i>
Pod 6 - Tongue <i>18 trails and 2 THs</i>	Pod 8 – Porcupine <i>5 trails and 1 THs</i>	Pod 9 – Beaver Creek <i>14 trails and no THs</i>
Pod 11 – Battle Park <i>14 trails and 2 THs</i>	Pod 10 – Shell <i>14 trails and 4 THs</i>	Pod 13 – Leigh Creek <i>4 trails and no THs</i>
Pod 12 – Tensleep <i>21 trails and 1 TH</i>		

Typically, each pod is served by one major trailhead as described below. The trails that have been italicized have been surveyed

**Pod #1 (L) - Powder River:** This area is characterize by spectacular scenery of distant high seriated peaks with several mid mountain fishing streams, much of which can be viewed from the historic Sheep Mountain Fire lookout. There are only three designated trails and no developed trailheads in this pod. However there are plenty of open cross country travel opportunities with room to roam and multiple-day trip opportunities for a variety of user types. The use level is moderate, but steady.

Trails:

Muddy stock	#210
Lost & Crazy	#411
Crazy Woman	#779

**Pod #2 (H) – Clear Creek:** This area receives heavy seasonal use; has good access off US 16; offers excellent day use opportunities with easy hiking access to high elevation lakes and scenic

vistas. Two full facility trailheads (parking, water, toilet, and signing) provide the visitor with access to a variety of trail and back country experiences. (Trail names highlighted in yellow are located in adjoining pods.)

**Hunter Trailhead:** Offers stock user access to a major system of interconnecting trails which provides the guest with outstanding sight seeing, hiking, riding, fishing and hunting opportunities on the following trails:

Trails:

Soldier Park	#24
Medicine Cabin	#115
Solitude Loop	#38
Trail Park	#44

Angeline	#88
Seven Brothers	#45
Swamp	#134
Buffalo Park Cutoff	#136

**Circle Park Trailhead:** Offers an extensive system of forest trails, which provides day hikers and /or backpacker access to beautiful high mountain parks, streams, lakes and scenic vistas, where visitors are free to enjoy their favorite backcountry recreational pursuits.

Trails:

Sherd Lake	#46
Oliver Cr	#47
Willow Lake	#87
Circle Park CG. Spur	#182
North Cow Camp	#179
South Cow Camp	#181

Old Crow	#90
Long Lake	#91
South Fork Ponds	#95
Circle Park	#177
South Clear Creek	#183
Trigger Lake	#99

**Elgin Park Trailhead** is an excellent equestrian facility with connections to a small trail system where our forest visitors can enjoy exercising their riding stock while viewing wildlife or hunting with a grand view of the Big Horn peaks.

Trails:

Tie Hack	#107
Grommund	#192
Brush Creek	#217
Cross H	#404

Grommund Point	#407
Saddle Crossing	#408
Elgin	#555
Little Sourdough	#403

Trails that do not connect a developed trailhead facility.

Trails:

Face	#133
South Mesa	#152
Summer Home	#154
Parmelee	#158

Hospital Hill	#174
School House Park	#176
Middle Fork	#178

**Pod #3 (M) - Flatiron:** This area receives low to moderate use. Access is difficult via Forest Roads #19 and Rock Creek County Road #1. There are no developed trailhead facilities and the trails do not received maintenance on a regular schedule. This pods extensive trail system

provides hiking and horseback access to good backcountry scenery, hunting, fishing, and camping attractions. Several trails begin by HF Bar Ranch on private land and connect or lead to most of the trails in this pod.

Trails:

South Rock Creek Cutoff	#7
North Rock Creek Cutoff	#10
Gem Lake	#30
Rock	#31
South Rock Creek	#41
French Creek	#42
Middle Rock Creek	#43
Bear Gulch	#84
North Rock Creek	#40
Firebox	#549
Balm of Gilead	#39
North Sayles Creek	#51
French Creek Mesa	#167
Elk Lake	#219
Spike of South Rock Creek	#401
Solitude Loop (portion)	#38
Tut's Shortcut	#400
Cloud Peak Cutoff	#82
South Sayles Creek	#126
East Mesa	#150
Mesa Ranch	#161
Johnson/French Creek	#162
French Upland Ridge	#406
Johnson Creek Spur	#405
Willow Loop	#200

Johnson Creek	#106
Penrose Creek	#118
Swamp	#134
Keno Cutoff	#137
West Ranch	#142
HF Bar	#34
Fryingpan Lake	#37
Cougar Canyon	#132
Line	#145
Parmalee	#158
Elk Mesa	#35
Elk Lake Cutoff	#130
Martini Loop	#131
Northwest Ranch	#138
Northeast Ranch	#144
South Mesa	#152
Summerhome	#154
Ditch	#160
Buffalo View	#171
Firebox Cutoff	#550
Cow Camp	#553
Stone Mountain Cutoff	#554
Pasture	#153
Face	#133
Swamp	#134

**Pod #4 (H) Little Goose:** This area offers spectacular scenery with many high elevation lakes, and loop trail opportunities. Vehicular access to this pod from Sheridan is somewhat difficult via the Red Grade Road or requires two hours of extended highway travel time on US #14 to FR.#16 & #26. The area in this pod is quite popular, accommodating a variety of recreation activities (camping, fishing, hunting, horseback, and ORV opportunities) in this heavy recreation use complex. There is heavy day use from the Sheridan, including access for river use and fishing. Hunting is excellent in the mid to upper end. Scenery is spectacular in the upper end with access to high mountain streams and lakes.

*Story Penrose Trailhead:* The Story Penrose Trailhead, located in the town of Story, provides parking for a number of vehicles and offers access for ATV, motorcycle, horse and foot traffic.

Trails:

Story Penrose	#33
Penrose Cut-across	#101
South Piney	#80
North Piney	#112

Tut's Shortcut	#400
Solitude Loop (portion)	#38
Penrose Park	#28

Trails with no developed trailhead facilities:

Little Goose Falls Hiking	#12
Little Goose	#27
Spear Lake	#36
Stockwell	#86
Teepee	#19
Bear Gulch	#20
Rapid Creek	#29
Kearny Cut-off	#414
South Piney Hiking	#626

Granger Cut-off	#416
South Piney Creek ATV	#621
Little Goose Falls ATV	#622
Square Park ATV	#623
Bishop Mine	#624
Loch Cr	#627
Kenniwood	#628
Little Goose Peak	#600

**Pod #5 (M) – Walker Prairie:** This mid mountainous elevation range experiences moderate to high use. Public access from US #14 on to FDR #16 which roughly forms the western border of this pod. Some visitors are granted trail access into this pod from private properties along the east face of the Bighorns. This area provides visitors with ample room for roaming, camping, fishing, hunting and exploring the remnants of a historic Tie Hack era.

Coffeen Park Trailhead: A developed trailhead and campground are located at the end of FDR293 past Park Reservoir. The last four miles of this road are very rough and rocky.

Coffeen Park	#592
Rhinehart Lakes	#113
Duncan Lake	#125

Thayer Lake	#122
Solitude Loop	#38
Edelman	#25

Coney Trailhead: A developed trailhead facility for stock users and foot traffic is located just off FDR 26, providing access to the following trail that leads to Coney and Stull Lakes:

Coney Creek	#21
-------------	-----

Trails without developed trailhead facilities:

Wolf Creek	#01
Quartz Creek	#03
Hendrick Ridge	#05
Sawmill	#09
Black Mtn. Lookout	#11
Walker Prairie	#14
Soldier Creek	#15
Roosevelt	#16
Big Goose Canyon	#17
Teepee	#19
Bear Gulch	#20
Coney Creek	#21
Sawmill Lakes	#22
Edelman	#25

Geddes Lake	#23
Rapid Creek	#29
Alden Creek	#72
Antler	#110
Big Goose Cutoff	#111
Dome Lake	#190
Granger Cutoff	#416
Rock Chuck Pass	#418
Gloom Cr. Head Waters	#425
Little Tongue Stock Dr.	#426
Hendrick Ridge Crossover	#427
Devil's Lake	#123
Upper Sawmill Lakes	#417
Steamboat Point	#630

**Pod #6 (H) Tongue:** The only public trail access from the eastern front range is the State's Tongue River Canyon, TR.#002 Trailhead. Most other trails are accessed from US 14 via numerous class 3 forest roads. Trailheads consist of undeveloped parking, Trail access from some of these roads may be difficult to identify.

*Tongue River Trailhead:* A developed trailhead located just outside the town of Dayton on State land, this trailhead provides year-round access to the following trails:

Tongue River Canyon	#02
Horse Creek	#159

Trails without a developed trailhead facility:

Freeze Out	#08
Prune Creek	#13
Fish Hook	#18
Gloom Creek Headwaters	#425
Tie Hack Historical	#424
Sibley	#26

Sibley Lake	#83
Tie Prune	#430
Smith Creek	#085
Burgess VIS	#49
Woodrock ATV	#629
Wolf Creek	#01

**Pod #7 (L) - Dry Fork – Little Bighorn:** Internal vehicular access to this pods trail system is limited to a few class II high clearance forest roads and primitive trailheads. External access to the east boundary of the National Forest is limited to one high clearance road, which terminates near the mouth of Little Bighorn Canyon. This beautiful canyon with its excellent stream fishing is the highlight of this pod. Trail use in this area is primarily horseback and hiking, with wildlife viewing, fishing, and hunting as the major recreational activities. Overall, use is somewhat light until hunting season when this pod draws its largest number of visitors.

Trails:

Dry Fork Ridge	#04
Lake Creek Divide	#06
Little Horn	#50
Fuller	#74
Bull Elk Park	#76
Fish Hook	#18

Miller	#77
Boyd Ridge	#96
Pumpkin	#146
West Pass Stock Drive	#428
Bull Elk Cutoff	#429
Lake Creek Ridge	#482

**Pod #8 (M) - Porcupine:** The one and only National Recreation Trail on the Forest is the highlight in this pod. Access to the Bucking Mule Falls Trailhead is by a class III graveled forest road via US 14A. That portion of the NRT which leads to the spectacular falls overlook receives a considerable amount of use during the summer and early autumn. Use on the other trails in this pod is light until hunting season when it increases to moderate to heavy for most of the area.

Bucking Mule Falls Trailhead: A developed trailhead facility is located at the end of FDR 14 providing access to the following:

Bucking Mule Falls	#53
--------------------	-----

Trails without a developed trailhead facility:

Tillets Hole	#52
Rail Road Springs	#54
Lodge Grass	#61

Porcupine Falls	#135
Medicine Wheel Arch. Site	#196

**Pod #9 (L) - Beaver Creek:** Trail use is light in this west slope high mountainous elevation range of the Bighorns. Major attractions include high elevation views of the expansive Big Horn basin country. Summer trail activity is light with hunting season bringing in the largest numbers.

Trails:

Sunlight Cutoff	#075
Dry Horse Cr.	#102
Elk Horn Stock	#139
Pete's Hole	#104
Mayland	#108
FAA Snow	#121
North Beaver	#149
Elk Horn	#103

Beaver Creek Mesa	#151
Horse Creek Mesa	#541
Hudson Creek	#419
East Beaver	#420
Shell Bench Topout	#422
Torry	#893
Old Highway	#140

**Pod # 10 (M) – Shell:** Trail use is moderate to heavy with most use occurring during hunting season. The canyon areas extending up to high elevation backcountry peaks and lakes attracts summer visitors primarily via the Paint Rock Lakes Trailhead at the end of FDR #17, a long and rough ride. Paintrock Trailhead is in the Battle Park pod.

Edelman Trailhead: A developed trailhead facility is located along FDR#17 providing access to the following:

Edelman	#25
Lower Medicine Lodge	#354

Trails without developed trailhead facilities:

Shell Lakes	#032
Cedar Creek	#055
Beef	#056
Grouse Creek	#381
Shell Creek	#57
Bear Gulch	#175
Solitude Loop	#038

Shell Bench	#184
Shell VIS	#48
Granite Creek	#421
Mail Creek	#817
Shell Lakes High	#828
Medicine Lodge Basin	#180

**Pod #11 (H) - Battle Park:** The area offers spectacular scenery with high peaks, lakes, sculptured glacial valleys and loop trail opportunities. Recreational use is high with the heaviest impact occurring during hunting season. This area accommodates a variety of trail related recreation activities. The primary use during the summer season is vehicle camping with horses in Battle Park and taking day rides on the trails. Other popular activities include backpacking into the wilderness, trail day hikes, and ORV trail riding on the motorized trails. During the winter this area and its trails become a prime play area for the snowmobile riders and use is heavy.

Trails: Main Paint Rock #062 (add ¼ mile of FDR #349 to the end of FDT #173 and #062 to form a very nice 12-mile equestrian loop out of the Battle Park Trailhead). The trail is also open to motorcycles.

Paintrock Trailhead: A developed trailhead and campground are located at the end of FDR#17 by Lower Paintrock Lake offering access to the following trails:

North High Park	#059
Solitude Loop, 6 mi. segmt	#038

Main Paintrock	#062
Kinky White	#116

Battle Park Trailhead: A developed trailhead is located at the end of FDR#24 providing facilities for stock and foot users and providing access to the following trails:

Long Park	#164
Battle Park	#173
Lilly Lake Cut-Off	#120

Middle Paintrock	#066
Bald Ridge ATV	#402

Trails with out developed trailhead facilities:

Cliff Lake Loop	#060
Kinky White Cutoff	#094
Lower Paintrock	#548

Bald Ridge	#97
Middle Fork	#849

**Pod #12 (H) – Tensleep:** The trails in this pod provide access to very scenic but more populated natural forest environment. Use is primarily non-motorized on most trails.

*West Tensleep Trailhead:* A developed campground and trailhead is located at the end of FDR#27 providing facilities for stock and foot users and providing access to the following popular trails:

Roy Loudan	#065
West Tensleep	#063

Solitude Loop, 3 mi. segmt	#038
West Tensleep Cutoff	#64

Trails with no developed trailhead facilities:

Highline	#067
East Tensleep Lake	#068
Salinas ADA	#81
Bald Ridge	#97
Middle Paintrock	#66
High Park Lookout	#70
Moraine	#409
Lake Creek ATV	#100
Middle Paintrock	#66

Virginia Creek	#098
McLain	#079
Stock Driveway	#69
Rock Trail	#31
Glacier Nature	#71
Upper Meadows	#73
West Tensleep Falls	#78
Pasture Park	#410

**Pod #13 (L) – Leigh Creek:** All the trails in this pod are open to motorized use. Use is light.

Trails:

Leigh Cabin	#412
Leigh Creek Crossing	#413
Pasture Park	#410