

National Forest Advisory Board Meeting

April 20, 2016

Mystic Ranger District

Members Present:

Chairman Dick Brown, Dave Brenneisen, Bob Burns, Dave Hague, Jennifer Hinkhouse, Luke Ortiz, Perry Rahn, Linda Tokarczyk, Lauris Tysdal, Josh Van Vlack, Jeanne Whalen, Danielle Wiebers, Mary Zimmerman, Nancy Trautman, Ben Rhodd, Patty Brown, Craig Tieszen, Keith Haiar

Members Absent:

Lon Carrier, Alice Allen, Wayne Bunge, John Gomez, David Miller, Derek Nelson, Victoria Sprague, Mike Verchio, Derek Alexander, Jessica Crowder, Kelly Hepler, Susan Johnson, Dennis Yellow Thunder, Tony Leif

Forest Service Representatives:

Craig Bobzien, Jerry Krueger, Jim Zornes, Beth Doten, Rhonda O'Byrne, Twila Morris, Blaine Cook, Mike Hilton, Anne Apodaca, Ralph Adam, Elizabeth Krueger, Jason Virtue

Others:

Approximately 20 members of the public were in attendance. Two Congressional Representatives were also in attendance; Mark Haugen (Thune – R, South Dakota) Katie Murray (Rounds – R, South Dakota).

Other Business:

Brown: The National Forest Advisory Board has drafted a Resolution to present to Craig; with signatures from all Board members. The Resolution is as follows:

Resolution: *NFAB 2016-1*

Subject: *Honoring Craig Bobzien's Service and Dedication to the Black Hills National Forest*

Whereas, Craig Bobzien served as the Designated Federal Officer for the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board from 2005 – 2016; and

Whereas, Craig's dedication and commitment to partnerships and collaboration for nearly 11 years made him a valuable asset to the US Forest Service, the states of South Dakota and Wyoming, and all visitors and users of the Black Hills National Forest; and,

Whereas, Craig served as the Supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest for nearly 11 years. He provided outstanding leadership to advisory board members who delivered sound advice on important policies and strategies affecting the Forest; and,

Whereas, Craig's relentless passion for public service will have a positive and long lasting impact on natural resources and visitors to the Black Hills National Forest for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, The Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board will miss ***Craig Bobzien's*** vision, passion and action to create a resilient Forest for future generations. The Board will continue its work in Craig's legacy to ensure the Forest remains resilient, and is a place for people to enjoy and prosper.

Submitted by: Richard Brown, Chairman, Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board

Action Taken:

Date: April 20, 2016

Effective Time Period: Ongoing

Presentation was made to Craig.

Introduction & Welcome:

Brown: Call the meeting to order, 1:00 p.m.

Bobzien: We have a full agenda today; trying to build a foundation on many topics. There are two asks today; one is to approve the recommendations from the Forest Health Working Group; and the second is to ask the Board to be the collaborative partner for the Black Hills Resilient Landscape Project.

One other important thing, I want to introduce Jim Zornes; Jim will be the Acting Forest Supervisor beginning May 1st. I got to work with Jim in response to a very large fire in 2011, and I know Jim will do a wonderful job for the Black Hills; Jim is currently our Regional Planning Director in Denver.

Zornes: I'm happy to be here, never been to South Dakota before. The Black Hills has a great program, I've always heard about the work being done here on the Black Hills. This body here, the NFAB; there is a lot of emphasis on the recognition of what this group does, and I look forward to working with all of you.

Bobzien: Before the meeting today, I had an interview, and it was really something to reflect on the work this Board has done. I will request some time at the end of the day for further comments on that.

Brown: Jim welcome, we are glad you are here and we look forward to working with you as well.

Approve the Agenda:

Brown: We would like to approve the agenda that is before you; motion made by David Hague second by Josh Van Vlack; comments or observations? All in favor say aye, opposed say nay; the April agenda is approved.

Approve the June 17, 2015 and March 16, 2016 Meeting Notes:

Brown: Our next item is to approve the meeting notes from June 17, 2015 and I know that 50% of the current members were not here in June, I understand that, but we need to go ahead and approve the notes anyway. I'd like to seek a motion to approve the June 17, 2015 meeting minutes; motion made by Craig Tieszen, second by Mary Zimmerman; comments or observations? Those in favor, signify by saying aye, those opposed, nay; the June 2015 meeting notes have been approved.

Next we'll approve the March 16, 2016 meeting notes. These have been reviewed, edited with minor changes. Can I have a motion to approve the March meeting notes; motion made by Bob Burns, second by Patty Brown; comments or observations? Seeing none, all in favor please say aye, those opposed, say nay; the March 2016 meeting notes have been approved.

House Keeping

Bobzien: Restrooms are on both sides of this room, emergency escape exits are the same.

Meeting Protocols:

Brown: We welcome all members of the audience. We provide 15 minutes for general public comment at the end of each meeting. If we do not have time for that, we urge you to visit with your designated representative. We first provide an opportunity for the membership to provide comment, on occasion we will make exception to that and take comments during presentations. This Board is approved by the Secretary of Agriculture; to assist the Forest Supervisor by offering advice on a broad range of issues. Please mute your cell phones. If there are any other alternates that would like to sit at the table, please do so if there is room.

Hot Topics

Legislative Updates – Federal

Brown: Next we'll have our Federal delegations give us an update; we'll start with Mark Haugen from Senator Thune's office.

Haugen: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Senate has been busy the past few weeks. Some of the things the Senator has been involved in are:
Energy Policy Modernization Act; this just passed this morning and will facilitate the establishment of a National Science and Technical Council. In conjunction with Senator Rounds; they finished up a transfer of 200 acres of BLM land to the BH National Cemetery. The Cemetery is running out of space, so this will allow them to expand. The Federal Aviation Administration Bill passed. Thune has been the point man on that for four years. It returns baggage fees if your bag is lost. It helps families so that they won't get spread out amongst the airplane. Stories about the employees who have access to areas they shouldn't, this puts teeth in that, and expands the TSA pre-check program.

Senator Thune received the Myrtle McKenzie Award from the Rail Customer Coalition; this award is the Heisman trophy of the Railroad. He also received the Golden Spike Award from the Railroad.

The Senator was here a couple of weeks ago visiting the Powder River Training area, and meeting with Airman. He also did a ride along with the Pennington County Sheriff's office; mostly to get an on the ground feel for where the money is going. He'll be in town this weekend as well.

And lastly, I want to thank Craig for his service; it has been great to work him. Senator Thune's office and the Forest Service operate under the "no surprises rule"; and it has always worked out very well; we appreciate all that you've done Craig. Craig and I have become friends outside of work as well, and we have made some great memories, hunting and fishing; everything my son knows about hunting, he has learned from Craig. Thank you Craig.

Brown: Thank you Mark. If there are no questions for Mark, we'll go to Katie Murray from Senator Round's office.

Murray: Thank you Mr. Chairman. As Mark mentioned, the Energy Policy Modernization Act passed. Senator Rounds introduced the Conservation Easement Act which would result in more awareness about the land conservation easement process. Another Act the Senator is working on is with Indian Affairs; we call it the Respect Act. This Act would get rid of a few of the outdated laws regarding Native Americans.

Starting today the Senate will take up the first appropriations bill; the energy and water development appropriations. This bill funds the Army Corps of Engineers. They haven't changed much since the flood last year and failed to request money; but this year they'll be requesting money.

The Senator will also be here this weekend. Thank you Craig for everything you have done for us and the Black Hills; we appreciate you and will miss you.

Brown: Thank you Katie, if there are no questions for Katie, we'll ask Jeanne to report on Wyoming. Jeanne, do you have anything to report today?

Whalen: Yes, I do, thank you. I reached out to Lummis, and Barrasso's office and they did not have anything to report. Senator Enzi's office did report that the Senator is the Chairman of the Budget Committee and he continues to play a role in the wildfire management issue because of the funding component.

Brown: Thank you Jeanne; it is very significant and important that you take a role in the Wyoming legislative reports, we appreciate that. Our next report will be from the State of South Dakota, Senator Tieszen, do you have anything to add?

Tieszen: Not too much to report. Particular to the Forest, I had more than one Legislator ask me about the Forest, and money for the Mountain Pine Beetle issue. I explained that, at the moment we are seeing a downward trend, and no additional money was being asked for. That is something they don't see often; most think that once money is asked for, it will be asked for every year.

The Legislature is out of session, I feel it was a productive session; I was on the right end of some of the results. There were a lot of education issues that we took on. Monday the Executive Board met and we have the summer studies set up, nothing related to the Forest Service. The issues that will be studied are Medicaid payments, nursing home beds, and drug abuse in the State. When I was retiring, methamphetamine use was on a downward trend; but now we have a resurgence of methamphetamine. It is physically destructive; causing a violent behavior in people. The last three police shootings in Rapid City involved people that were high on meth.

All of us are up for re-election in June and November so there will be new people in place for next year.

Brown: Thank you Senator Tieszen, and all. It is very significant and important that you take a role with the South Dakota Legislation, thank you for your work.

Forest Service Hot Topics ~ Craig Bobzien & Jerry Krueger

Bobzien: A number of the hot topics are updates and briefs, and there will be a more detailed discussion at future meetings. Chairman Brown serves as the Chair of the Rec. Facilities.

Recreation Facilities - Bobzien:

- The Black Hills National Forest has 140 recreation facilities; campgrounds, picnic areas, some are developed with services some are not. We are in the process of taking a look at the facilities with a team of experts and our Staff to determine what condition they are in. We are looking at the condition assessments, and will be back with the Working Group as early as May.

Brown: We are looking forward to getting that report back from the Working Group (Linda Tokarczyk, Alice Allen, Lonnie Carrier and Dick Brown). This will be back before the Board soon.

Cold Fire – Bobzien:

- We've had an early fire season already this year; which was not completely unexpected due to the dryness we've had. The fire was around 1,900 acres and for being so early in the season, the interagency response was outstanding. We safely addressed the fire, it did bump into a prescribed fire area and that completely changed the fire behavior. The strategy and tactics used were very positive; and the affects were largely affective. No injuries, no property damage; the response we had with our fire leadership was tremendous across the board.

Mountain Bike Trails – Bobzien:

- There was an important piece in the Rapid City Journal; how many of you read that? Ranger Esperance had written a letter and was involved in some group meetings trying to work with people that want to use the National Forest for mountain biking. This has brought out a lot of people that are interested in this type of recreation. There was a number of unauthorized trails that were constructed and continued to grow. This is a hot topic for us, it's about our present and our future. Ruth will give a more in-depth discussion in May.

Sturgis Trail – Krueger:

- One proposal related to forest access in terms of a systems trail is located out of Sturgis. Tony talked about the work that has been done and about those who are interested in seeing that trail developed. One of the challenges we face is capacity in our recreation program, specifically as it relates to non-motorized trails.
- This is a project that our Northern Hills Ranger District staff is working on; this is a very deliberate process orientated endeavor. We are working on many, many other projects at the same time; including the Mickleson to Mount Rushmore Connector Trail; this is currently our number one priority, and where the bulk of the work and analysis is going. We have a group that is here today to advocate for the Sturgis trail head, and we want you to know that your concerns are important to us.

- With a small recreation staff, it is difficult to assign additional resources. We try to address each request in an orderly fashion and if we take on another project, it takes resources from other projects. We need to fill the requests in an orderly manner, following the laws and rules.

Brown: At this time I will give a few minutes to Tony to address this issue; please be aware we have two more hot topics to cover.

Ortiz: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am new to this project; being a recent appointee to the Sturgis Trail project; we look forward to cooperating and working will with the Forest Service to see this project through. We look forward to the local impact on the community. We hope to set a good example in getting this project done.

Kevin Forrester: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This project in Sturgis is quite a thing and the component with the Forest Service is only a piece of the project. The group has worked on a similar project on BLM land. The EA has been completed, the fact is that some of these items are very time dependent and require out of the box thinking. Success has been demonstrated, great success with the Forest Service, volunteer agreements, and trusted partners. We can help manage resources and fill gaps. Hope to raise the tide of the entire Black Hills so everyone benefits.

Ortiz: I do have a map, if we could take a minute to show it. Black Hills Trails is not a non-motorized trail organization, we have a lot of volunteers to do the work.

[Map shown on screen]

Tysdal: Are these trails going to be for the Harleys and other machines, are they paved roads?

Ortiz: They are single track trails, for running, hiking, and mountain biking, horseback riding; all non- motorized.

Brown: If you have any questions, please visit with Tony during a break. This is an example of an excellent opportunity to work through your NFAB represented area of interest to have your issues heard.

Sturgis Trails Summary by Tony Ortiz (as provided in an e-mail to the NFAB):

- Spring 2013 Black Hills Trails submitted a unified proposal to several land managers in the Sturgis area. This proposal was submitted with overwhelming support from the local community. This support included letters of endorsement delivered to the Northern Hills Ranger District of the BHNF from the City of Sturgis, Sturgis Chamber of Commerce, Meade County, Black Hills Council of Local Governments, and local trail user organizations.
- Land management stakeholders include the National Forest, BLM, City of Sturgis, Department of VA, and multiple private land owners. Since the proposal was submitted the following has taken place:
 - City of Sturgis has established trailheads for access to BHNF and BLM.
 - City of Sturgis has authorized construction of all trails proposed under the plan.
 - BLM has completed EA of 29 miles of trails in the proposal.

- VA and BLM have coordinated with City of Sturgis and the City of Sturgis was awarded a \$250,000.00 RTP grant to build a handicap accessible trail encircling the VA Hospital as part of the network.
- VA, BLM, City of Sturgis have all completed the necessary regulatory hurdles.
- Much of the originally proposed trail now exists on the ground with the City of Sturgis and BLM portions of the network expected to be more than 80% complete in 2016.
- We are looking forward to a good working relationship with BHNF.
- In addition to this project we have worked closely with the Forest Service on the Centennial Trail. Since 2013 much has been accomplished including general maintenance of the trail, installing rollovers in the Northern Hills District, clean up after storm Atlas, and in 2015 assisted USFS engineer in reconstruction of approximately 11 miles of the Centennial Trail from Elk Creek Trailhead north to BLM boundary by completing finish work after the USFS trail dozer was used to correct drainage, widen the corridor, and reroute trouble areas.
- Submitted by Tony Ortiz, Dispersed Recreation NFAB.

Regular Agenda

Brown: At this time, we'll move into the regular agenda; I'll turn it over to Craig.

Bobzien: Before we get into the next topic, I would like to welcome Benjamin Rhodd. Ben is a brand new member of the Board; and serves with Lon Carrier in the Archaeological, Cultural and Historical Interests Area. Ben is an employee of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. Welcome Ben.

Rhodd: I apologize for getting here late. I appreciate this opportunity; as we are moving ahead in our common interest in the protection of the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF), and the environment on all levels. We all are attempting to work together in the best way we can; thank you.

South Dakota Elk Management – SD GF&P

Bobzien: I would like to welcome Mike Kintigh from the SD GF&P. It has been my pleasure to work with Mike ever since I've been on the Black Hills. I'm humbled by all of his responsibilities. Mike was here last month and gave an overview of the Elk Management Plan. It's important that the State of South Dakota and the Forest Service work together on a number of memorandums of understanding, etc. The Forest manages the habitat and the State manages the wildlife. I'll turn it over to Mike for a brief update on the progress of the Elk Management Plan.

Kintigh: Thank you very much, I am happy to be back again. I'll give a quick update of the progress that has been made on the Elk Management Plan.

Recommended changes from last year:

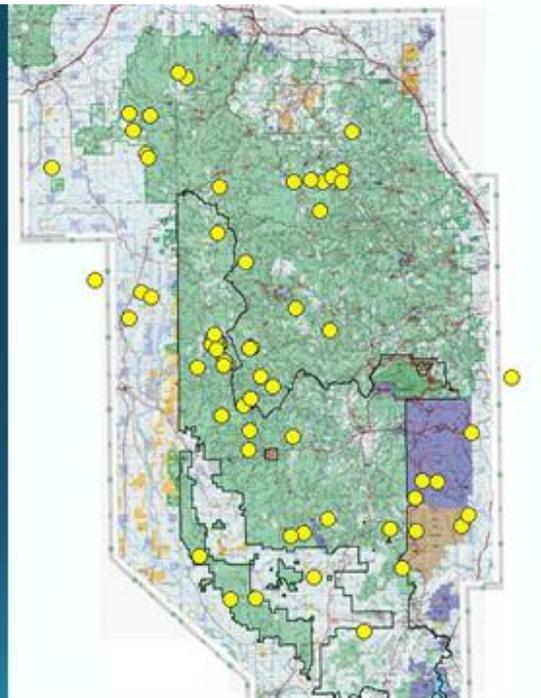
1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 430 "any elk" to 443 "any elk"
 2. Adjust the number of licenses available from 500 "antlerless elk" licenses to 1,255 "antlerless elk" licenses. (+ 755)
 3. Season dates for units H2B, H2E, H2H, H3B, and H3E would run from the Monday closest to October 15 through October 31.
 4. Season dates for units H2C, H2F, H2I, H3C, and H3F would run from December 1 through the Friday closest to December 15.
 5. Season dates for units H2D, H2G, H2J, H3D, and H3G would run from Saturday closest to December 15 through December 31.
 6. Adjust the number of licenses available from 144 "any elk" and 56 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 200 licenses) to 147 "any elk" and 140 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 287 licenses).
- Proposals were made to the Commission on March 3rd, 2016.
 - The normal 30 day public comment period followed.
 - On March 24th, an Open House was held at the OCW. Attendance was about 70 people. The outcome was quite positive.
 - On April 7th, 2016 – The Commission approved / adopted the Elk Seasons as proposed.
 - BHNF & SD GFP staff met on March 22nd, for further review and development of a cooperative habitat monitoring program.
 - GFP funding a seasonal position in the BHNF range program, purpose is to assimilate range monitoring data (Long term and Short term) into a more useable format. Product in Sept.?
 - Continue to develop monitoring points and methods
 - GFP & BHNF to give informational update to Commission May 6th
 - Next meeting of BHNF and GFP staff – July 26th, to review range conditions, determine any need for contingency tags.

- 2016 Elk Flight

- Flight Information obtained between 2/1/16 – 2/22/16
- Map displays 64 points with herd sizes of 20 hd. and above. (herd sizes displayed ranged between 20 hd. – 1,222 hd.)

- 2016 Habitat Observations

- Observations made between 2/20/16 – 3/12/16
- 26 sites were evaluated on the Mystic and Hell Canyon Districts (72% of the elk locations surveyed on MY and HC)



Tysdal: On the contingency tags, how late in the season will they be issued?

Kintigh: They need to be issued to be available to hunt during the season.

Tysdal: If you issue licenses to eliminate some of the elk, when would that decision be made?

Kintigh: We have to go to the August meeting to propose that, and then there is a 30 day comment period; then the licenses would be issued and hunters could start hunting in October.

Tieszen: What is your success rate for rifle hunters?

Kintigh: It is outstanding; 71% last year; we expect the success rate to drop a bit with this many tags. Still above 50% which is unheard of for elk hunting in the United States.

Rhodd: You did your fly over; how many elk do you think you have in total?

Kintigh: The population of the Black Hills only, not including the parks, is 7,200 head. What we counted from the helicopter was just over 6,000, but we take our count and run it through a process that factors in the ones we didn't see, and that brings it up to 7,200 head.

Tysdal: Will you do the flight every year, and if you do will you move the time line so that you might see different patterns of the elk?

Kintigh: No we do not plan to fly every year, it is quite expensive. This flight cost \$200,000 to do survey; but we do plan to fly every three years. Can we adjust the time line? To some extent yes, but not greatly. We're up against the availability of the helicopters, and we try to do it late in the season so that we don't interrupt the hunting season. We also look for good snow cover. If we go too late in March the snow cover is gone, and the herds start breaking up. Timeline is tight, within a month and a half.

Burns. Has the Game Fish and Parks ever considered doing the study with drones?

Kintigh: Given our current technology, it is too limited, but we have been talking about it.

Brown. Thank you very much Mike. I would like to know call on Tom Blair, a past Chairman of this National Forest Advisory Board; Tom and his son Chris came today because they knew it was Craig's last meeting.

Blair: Thank you Dick. I have worked on the National Forest Advisory Board from ground zero. In 2002 we had the Grizzly fire in Deadwood. The whole town was evacuated. Two days after the fire started, three gentleman walked up to my campground – we were the only ones with electricity, etc. The gentleman were the Forest Supervisor at the time, John Twiss; Senator at the time, Tom Daschle; and the Governor at the time, Bill Janklow. We talked about what was wrong with the system; we had not had a reasonable cutting season in the Forest Service in 10 years, and no one was talking to one another. We sat down and came up with an idea that John said he could get through the Forest Service, and the Governor said he would help through the State, and Daschle would help through the Senate. This is where the NFAB idea was started.

The following year, 2003, we had 88 applications vetted, and 12 people were seated on the Board. In the past 13 years, nobody but nobody has helped the process more than Craig. Chris and I decided we wanted to come down to pay our respects to you Craig. When they write the history of this Board, this gentleman (Craig) should be at the top of the list.

Brown: Thank you Tom. At this time we will take a break.

Brown: Called the meeting back to order. The next item on the agenda is the Over Snow Working Group update. Bob (Burns) would you like to take that?

Over-Snow and Non-Motorized Working Group Report Update ~ Bob Burns, Dave Hague, and Mary Zimmerman

Burns: There is a national mandate for the Forest to come up with a travel management plan for over snow recreation. Our committee (Dave Hague, Mary Zimmerman, and myself) was tasked to deal with that; another part of that was the fat tire bikes. We brought in experts from WY and SD and we had a really good group put together to work on this. We had some really good meetings; then there was a death in our Family, and the Board was dissolved, so we lost traction, but we intend to get it going again.

Motorized Trails & Permit Fees 2017 ~ Bob Burns, Dave Hague, Mary Zimmerman

Burns: (Passed out an information chart) the same people are on this committee. Income is up from past years. Also have a total amount of money spent which left a positive balance. We would like more detail on what the money was spent on. We also discussed things like permits needing to be easier to get also the possibility of just having one rate rather than the weekly or yearly.

We've found that the internet can be a tedious process; couldn't find the figure of how much it costs; and there is a fairly hefty fee for getting it mailed. The website should be simplified. There are a lot of things the Board could give advice on to simplify the process.

Tieszen: What are the numbers of permit sales to compare since we've been selling permits, since 2010? Have permit sales been increasing?

Burns: It looks like we are at \$100,000 more than last year.

Hague: One suggestion we wanted considered is to add Patty Brown to this Working Group.

Burns: If we arrange a meeting and one can't make it, can we have an alternate come?

Brown: I would like you to communicate with the supervisor on that when the time comes. Craig would you like to comment on this?

Bobzien: Having a Working Group, a subset of the Advisory Board, means it can consist of Advisory Board members and others – we just want a balance of people a complement of different viewpoints. We can entertain having more members, and respect that it is a workable size; smaller is sometimes better. If we have suggested changes, we'll entertain those. We'll take a look at that, Jim and Jerry will take a look at that in the next meeting.

Brenneisen: Towards the bottom of the sheet, it says \$58,000 for permit production and supplies. Is that all that covers?

Hague: Labor is in that too.

Bobzien: \$58,000 is everything above the number; water crossings, culverts, trailhead signs, gates, uniforms, fleet, FPOs, training, etc.

Brenneisen: Is maintenance being tracked on these trails? Do we have an idea of that expense?

Ralph Adam: Last year we had some RTP funded crews that are not reflected in these costs. The true costs are not reflected, so I cannot give you a firm number.

Bobzien: We will follow-up on that. For the sake of clarification; the money we use to manage everything comes from three sources:

1. Appropriated Recreation Dollars
2. Grants
3. User Fees

These are the three main sources of revenue; this chart only shows how the user fees were reinvested.

Burns: For the committee's full knowledge, we'll need all of those figures; because the money is coming from different directions; and we need to know what is getting done.

Bobzien: These fees are only from the South Dakota side, Wyoming has separate user fees that have been invested back to the BHNF.

Whalen: The forest protection officers that are used to patrol trails; do they sell people permits if they catch someone without one?

Burns: I don't think so.

Hague: Bonnie Jones has done that in the past, but that was during the learning stage, the informing stage. The users know now that they need a permit, so they don't have the opportunity to buy one on the spot; so they get fined instead.

Burns: Getting one on the phone right now is not possible, but that would add great ease. Maybe our committee could help with that.

Brown: Thank you for that report Bob.

Chart referenced in discussion:

FDSD36- Motorized Trails FY 2015 Overview					Black Hills National Forest
Outlet Selling Motorized Vehicle Permit	Annual (\$25)	7 day (\$20)	Commercial (\$125)		
Online (Kinsail)	3327	1729			
Forest Service Offices	5972	905	55		
Black Hills and Badlands VC	2428	830			
Black Hills Parks and Forest association	630	450			
Hill City Chamber of Commerce	523				
Total Sales	12880	3914	55	TTL #Permits	16849
Value of total Sales	\$322,000.00	\$97,850.00	\$1,375.00	TTL Sales	\$421,225.00
Personnel	\$37,000	HC			
	\$63,000	MY			
	\$25,000	NH/BL			
	\$32,000	SO			
5% to the Regional Forester's Fund	\$21,061	RO			
Low water crossings					
culverts, Trailhead signs, gates					
uniforms					
Fleet, equipment Rental, trail tractor					
Forest Protection Officers					
Training					
Permit production and supplies	\$58,000				
Total spent in 2015	\$236,061				
Carryover to Recreation Fees Account	\$185,164	(carries across fiscal years)			

Motorized trails projects on the forest have been supplemented by the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grants funded by the Federal Highway Administration and distributed by the State of South Dakota. The Black Hills National Forest has received the majority of the funding set aside in SD for motorized trails in this program due to it being the only federal land in the state that has a motorized trails program. If it were not for RTP grants, more of the recreation fees collected from permit sales would need to be used to maintain and improve the motorized system on the forest. We do carry over dollars that are collected on the forest through the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) from year to year for future use or larger projects. In Fiscal Year 15 no funds were distributed to the Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations Team (LE&I) for commissioned Officers. However, Forest Protection Officers (non-commissioned) were used to patrol trails and enforce rules and regulations.

Heritage and Sacred Site Update ~ Michael Hilton

Bobzien: Next I would like to introduce Dr. Michael Hilton. Michael will go over our Heritage Program. This is for background especially with the new Board members, this is informational to understand the Black Hills and its sacredness to the Native Americans. Mike will do a quick overview, just for information.

Hilton: Thank you. I am the Heritage Program Manager for the Black Hills National Forest as well as the Tribal Liaison. I am also currently serving as the Heritage Program Manager for the Rocky Mountain Region in Denver.

Objectives of Presentation:

- Provide general overview
- Address questions

What are Heritage Resources?

- Archeological Deposits
- Historic Structures & Objects
- Records & Historical Archives
- Non-Renewable Resources
 - Petroglyphs
 - Pictographs
 - Arrowheads

What Constitutes a Sacred Place?

- Any specific location on National Forest System land, whether site, feature, or landscape, that is identified by an Indian tribe, or the religious societies, groups, clans, or practitioners of an Indian tribe, as having important spiritual and cultural significance to that entity, greater than the surrounding area itself. Sacred places may include but are not limited to geological features, bodies of water, burial places, traditional cultural places, biological communities, stone and earth structures, and cultural landscapes uniquely connecting historically important cultural sites, or features in any manner meaningful to the identifying Tribe.

Objectives of the Heritage Resources and Tribal Relations Programs:

- Manage significant resources
- Manage sacred sites and places
- Maintain communication with Tribal staff
- Keep the Forest legal.

National Historic Preservation Act; Section 106:

- The head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking in any State and the head of any Federal department or independent agency having authority to license any undertaking shall, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license, as the case may be, take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The head of any such Federal agency shall afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation established under Title II of this Act a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking. (16 U.S.C. 470f)

Sacred Sites/Places:

- Any specific location on National Forest System land, whether site, feature, or landscape, that is identified by an Indian tribe, or the religious societies, groups, clans, or practitioners of an Indian tribe, as having important spiritual and cultural significance to that entity, greater than the surrounding area itself. Sacred places may include but are not limited to geological features, bodies of water, burial places, traditional cultural places, biological communities, stone and earth structures, and cultural landscapes uniquely connecting historically important cultural sites, or features in any manner meaningful to the identifying Tribe.

Brenneisen: Some of the recent large projects, like the PBR, and now the BHRL – how do projects like that impact your workload.

Hilton: They do have an impact. But as far as the larger projects; the MPB project, we don't know exactly where we need to go, so draft agreements with the State and consultation with the Tribes that are called programmatic agreements (PA) are done in advance, and those are used after the areas are identified. We do have to have the PA to keep us legal.

Whalen: Since the Black Hills has so many ghost towns and graves, is there a criteria that you use to determine if the site is a heritage resource?

Hilton: Anything over 50 years is something we can consider cultural resources, but like the ghost towns, there are four criteria for those: 1. Is there a person of interest related to the ghost town, 2. Is there an event of interest, 3. Is there a unique architecture of interest, and 4. Is there scientific value to the site. Most ghost towns in the Black Hills are on private land.

Rhodd: I attended a meeting the last two days in Pierre. There is an ongoing review of the SD State Burial Law. I do not know how that will affect the Black Hills, but there is criteria that will come out of that meeting. For example, if there is a portion of a ghost town that extends into the Forest; there will be management questions; at least for the SD side.

Hilton: Thank you for that; and thank you Mr. Chairman for your time today. I appreciate the opportunity to talk with the Board about Heritage Resources.

Black Hills Resilient Landscapes Project (BHRL) ~ Rhonda O'Byrne – Elizabeth Krueger

Bobzien: Regarding the Black Hills Resilient Landscapes Project, we'd like the board to collaborate and work with the Black Hills National Forest. Some notes were sent out to the board on the 2014 farm bill. We are looking at provisions to see if the government wanted to have priority landscapes consistent with the bill for designation. The 2nd part is of that is, the language that requires the Forest to have a collaborative effort. The board meets the intent of that language to help the Forest with its development and design. We will be engaging the public, tribes and other agencies and we would ask the board to take action on this.

Brown: With that, we will turn it over to Rhonda O'Byrne with the next topic on the agenda.

O'Byrne: A couple of the things we'd like to cover includes the latest version of purpose and need for this project. One of the 1st steps to get it finalized, is we need to update our veg databases to describe our current conditions. We need to set a date so we can move forward and look at the proposed action. We have a meeting the first part of next month to start forming this project. Craig has sent a map out, based off of the farm bill direction. Discussion will include what we are considering for any type of activities.

Krueger: We will have a motion here with regards to accepting the role of collaboration group for this project. Rhonda and Elizabeth are leading this for the Forest. For the new members, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we are required to engage in NEPA which is a process of examining and disclosing effects to the public. The authority under which we are taking this is the healthy forest restoration act (HFRA) update in the farm bill signed into law in 2014. Under HFRA, it requires collaborative involvement, deliberative public involvement and what will be impacted during the project. This will be put into a NEPA document which will disclose those effects to the public. Any questions?

Brenneisen: It looks like the project is covering the entire area requested by governors. What is the total acreage?

Byrne: Over 800,000 acres. The Record of Decision is planned to be signed in September 2017.

Brenneisen: Do you have any kind of estimate for acreage of treatment generated?

O'Byrne: About 100,000 acres when we look at commercial treatment. When we are looking at non-commercial treatments, the extent will be different.

Bobzien: Rhonda would you please explain scoping.

O'Byrne: Scoping comes from the NEPA Act. We are required to scope with the public and we want your comments.

Zimmerman: Would that include non-commercial?

Byrne: It would include prescribed burning, mechanical thinning, and any objectives to complete project.

Tysdal: What is the focus? Is it towards forestry?

O'Byrne: The project is focused towards veg conditions. It won't include grazing improvement or recreation. It is tied towards the veg management part. As we add more and more it becomes a bit more complicated. Are there any other questions?

Brown: Bobzien could you please restate the motion?

Bobzien: When we have the project proposal and publish it in the federal register, it will initiate scoping and public comment. Then with the purpose and need, we will take steps to what areas are being considered with a controlled action. That helps us develop a proposed action and one alternative which is carried to an environmental analysis, to a Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS), and to the public and board. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is

planned for September 2017. We will look at the proposal, alternatives, comments and look at ways to successfully design the project. With the forest working group, we will look at ways and means that will include much of the detailed work. We will be working with the forest health working group and any member of the board can be involved. We have that group from both states. What we are looking for is you, as a board, for your willingness to be the collaborative partner that works with the Forest in development of the project, alternative and additional alternatives.

Brown: The board seeks a move to approve this motion to be a collaborative partner with this project. Moved by Lauris Tysdal and seconded by Tony Ortiz. The motion passes and we are accepting the request to be a partner. Thank you.

Bobzien: This will be similar to other working groups. In the forest health working group, Trautman and Gomez represented this group with a number of other people, including the late Kohlbrand. We looked at people from the board to represent that group, in addition to others that aren't on the board including Dave Thom, Dick Terry, Jim Scherrer, and Ben Wudtke. There is an interest in adding more advisory members to this group. Similar to Dave Brenneisen and Mary Zimmerman stepping up to represent their groups.

Brown: Are there any questions?

Brenneisen: Can you clarify the Forest health working group and the mountain pine beetle working group and split the duties of the two groups?

Bobzien: The group I just described is the Forest health working group members and they are directly connected to the board. There are some people that also serve with the mountain pine beetle group. The resilience project would give some feedback. There is some overlap and separation and some of it may be wearing a second hat. There is some integration in some ways and we need to appoint specific people per the charter to make the group official.

Brown: Are there any other questions?

Forest Health Working Group Recommendation for FY16-18 ~ Dave Thom John Gomez, Nancy Trautman

Bobzien: Many of you know Dave Thom. Thom is the mountain pine beetle working group coordinator. Thom has been in this position for several years. There are currently 15 active conservative leader members. It is a very large group and we can work with a lot of people at the same time. We have a smaller group working with you, the board. Today our ask from the board is to review and provide recommendations for the 2016 – 2018 restoration program and evaluating placing timber sale projects on the landscape. Think about the why here, why now.

Black Hill National Forest Resilient Landscapes Project ~ Dave Thom

“BLACK HILLS RESILIENT LANDSCAPES PROJECT CONSIDERATION FACTORS” (reference the handout...attached). Focus areas, forest plan objectives and legal authorities (including SD & WY request for USDA designation of high-risk landscape scale treatment acres in the Black Hills.

Discussion

- a. Build in a **cushion** for 100,000 acres.
- b. Timber **volume per acre** and output goals may be lower than recent experience.
- c. Use the **long view**. Takes a while to meet forest objectives.
- d. Consider **resiliency on all** acres (not just key management areas)
- e. **PBR was exclusively MPB** focus - did consider long-term tree stocking objectives.
- f. A lot of “**eggs in this basket**” – use all NEPA tools, past/present to ensure program delivery.
- g. Include **all probable land management treatments**, i.e. Px burning and non-commercial thinning.
- h. **Trees grow** – helps move towards AND beyond resilient forest.
- i. Treat **beetle-infested trees and creating resilient stands** via “recovery” (salvage of recently dead and fuels accumulations).
- j. Provide for post-fire salvage to **reduce future fuel build-up**.
- k. Consider **invasive weeds**.

Summary and recommendation to NFAB:

- 1) Appreciates this early involvement.
- 2) Concur with initial concept; consider above discussion points.
- 3) Anticipate future involvement (via MPB WG and NFAB FHWG) as scoping and analysis proceeds.

5-Year Timber Sale/Vegetation Plan

Introduction (D. Mertz):

- 5-year TS/Veg plan (draft 2/12/16) –increased funding and target levels is at 207,000 ccf (hundred cubic feet) for sawtimber, products-other-than-logs (POL), & firewood
- About 9,000 ccf above the ASQ since 2007 (permissible under FP).
- No current projects to implement in 2019 and 2020.
- All districts moved sales forward (reviewed specifics)

Discussion:

- 1) Good Neighbor Authority – an important tool for FS and State cooperative work on projects. States offer to help with NFS programs and for work on NFS land.
- 2) “Timber sale” and “service” contracts under contract – remove “green” beetle infested trees.

Recommendations:

Appreciate opportunity for input...

1. **High Risk Areas** - Northwest corner of the Black Hills NF in SD and adjacent lands in WY and elsewhere.
2. **Retain focus on MPB** – Until no longer a threat, treat remaining MPB infestations and to move towards resiliency.

3. **Efficiency** - Dollars and staff are limited so: a) maximize treatment within a planning area, and b) utilize and expedite PBR and existing NEPA decisions.
4. **Increased capacity** – Work with cooperators under existing or new authorities to increase amount and timeliness of project delivery. States and counties are available to help when possible.

Brown: Are there any questions? Is there a motion to adopt these recommendations before you? Dave Hague makes the 1st motion and 2nd by Linda Tokarczyk. All in favor say I - motion moved.

Brown: Any questions or comments?

Thom: We will work with Dick Brown and the Forest Supervisor to clarify the forest health working group.

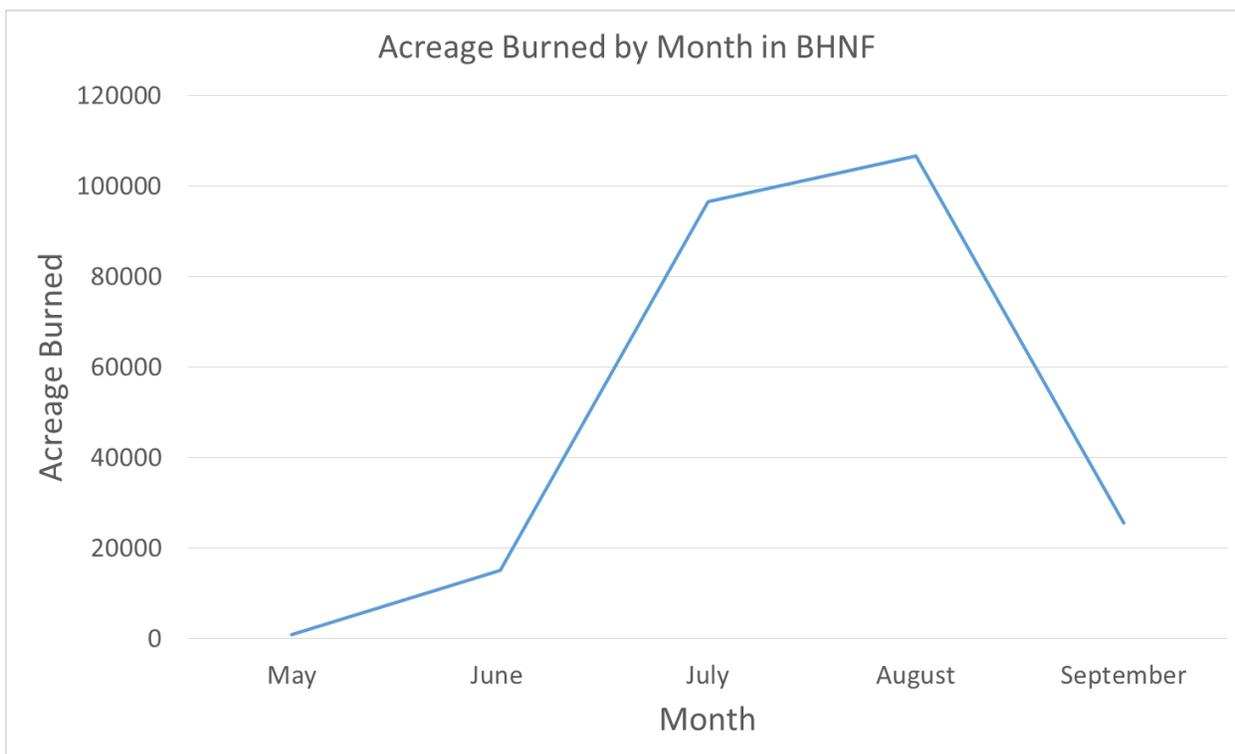
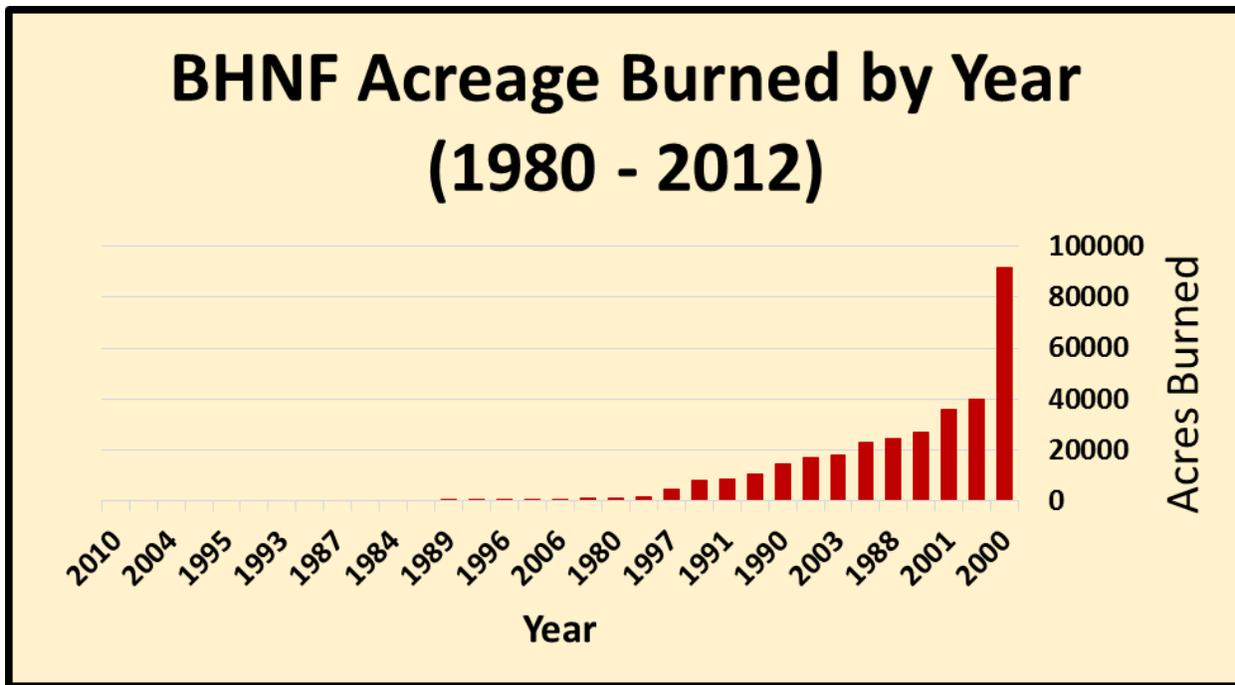
Bobzien: A tremendous amount of rigor and discussion has gone into this to get to this point. Before we close out on this, I'd like to show an example of upper castle creek (Horsted photo) that is from 1874 (top) and 2007 (bottom). The reason to bring this up is to think about the Black Hills National Forest as being resilient in the future and what might that look like? I'd like to offer this as I leave: to think about the future and think about our situation. The top photograph shows very little settlement and the land was used by Native Americans. What are the two number one disturbance factors? Fire and insects. There are other natural disturbances. With fire, you can see that the forest is more open in the upper photograph. The lower photograph is a dense forest. Starting in the 1930s thru 2000s, there was a lot of fire suppression. Why did we suppress fires? For community protection, land value and national policies. Then tailing out of the ice age in 1988 – 1994, we saw a big fire trend. This last year, nationally we burned 10 million acres. Fire seasons are starting earlier and going longer. I think we will be somewhere in between those two photographs. A very resilient and diverse Forest with the kind of things people want to see. One that is resilient to natural forces and sustains watersheds. The Forest won't get formally into forest planning for another 6- 8 years. What is the resilient forest we are trying to achieve?

Brown: Are there any questions?

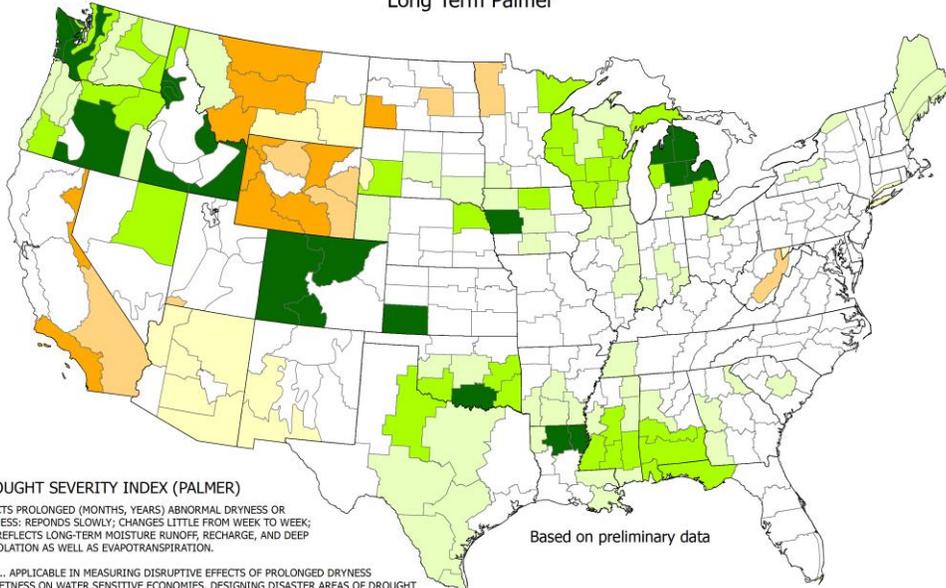
Fire Season Outlook – 2016 ~ Daren Clabo, Jason Virtue, Rob Lehmann, Dick Terry

Brown: The next topic on the agenda is fire prevention.

Bobzien: We are fortunate to have Daren Clabo here with his expertise.



Drought Severity Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending Apr 16, 2016
Long Term Palmer



DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX (PALMER)

DEPICTS PROLONGED (MONTHS, YEARS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS; REponds SLOWLY; CHANGES LITTLE FROM WEEK TO WEEK; AND REFLECTS LONG-TERM MOISTURE RUNOFF, RECHARGE, AND DEEP PERCOLATION AS WELL AS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION.

USES... APPLICABLE IN MEASURING DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED DRYNESS OR WETNESS ON WATER SENSITIVE ECONOMIES, DESIGNING DISASTER AREAS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS; AND REFLECTING THE GENERAL LONG-TERM STATUS OF WATER SUPPLIES IN AQUIFERS, RESERVOIRS AND STREAMS.

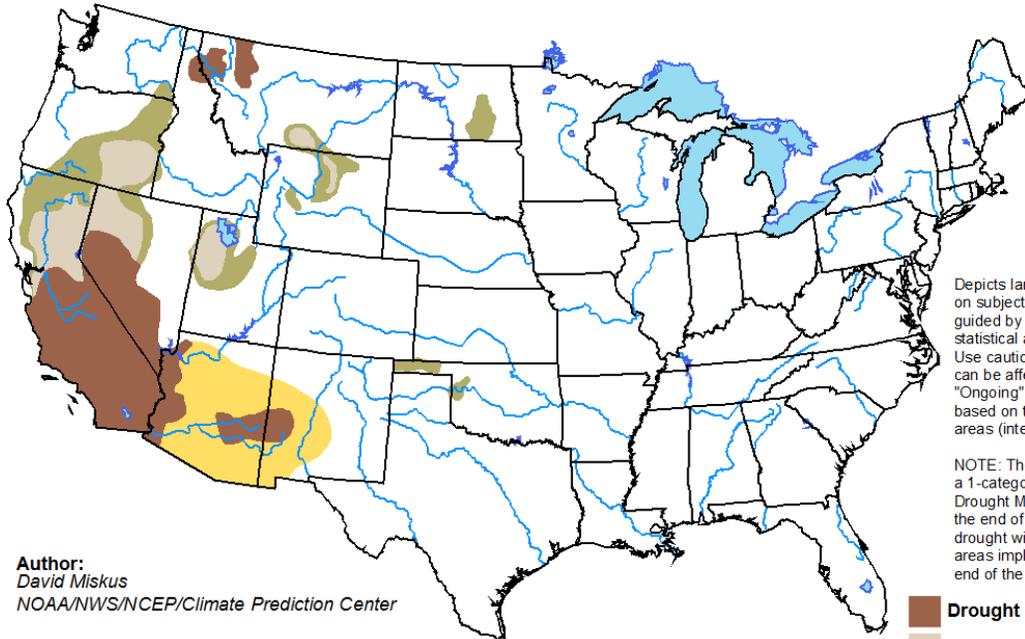
LIMITATIONS... IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OFFSHORT-TERM (FEW WEEKS) STATUS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS SUCH AS FREQUENTLY AFFECTS CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS (THIS IS INDICATED BY THE CROP MOISTURE INDEX).

Based on preliminary data

- 4.0 or less (Extreme Drought)
- 3.0 to -3.9 (Severe Drought)
- 2.0 to -2.9 (Moderate Drought)
- 1.9 to +1.9 (Near Normal)
- +2.0 to +2.9 (Unusual Moist Spell)
- +3.0 to +3.9 (Very Moist Spell)
- +4.0 and above (Extremely Moist)

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 17 - June 30, 2016
Released March 17, 2016



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

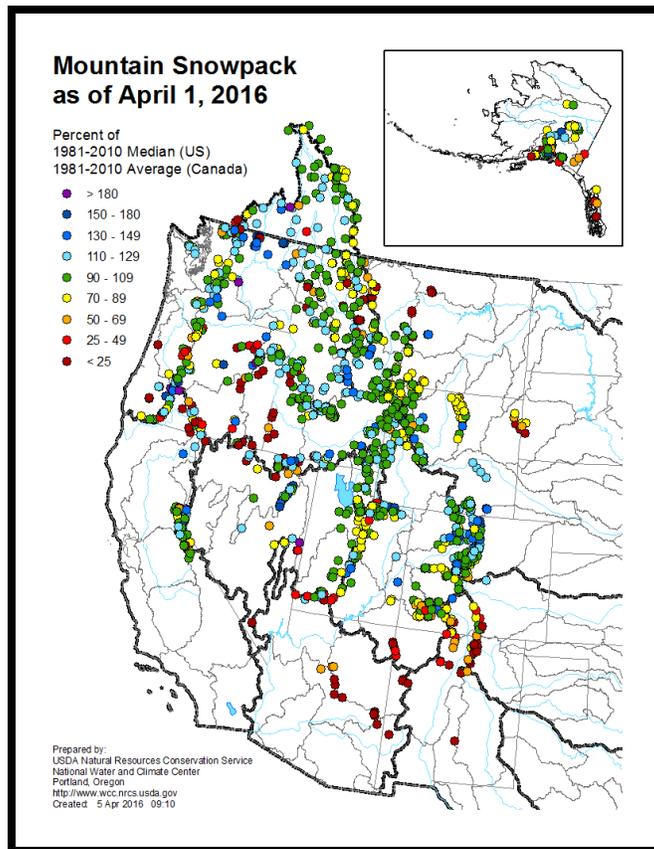
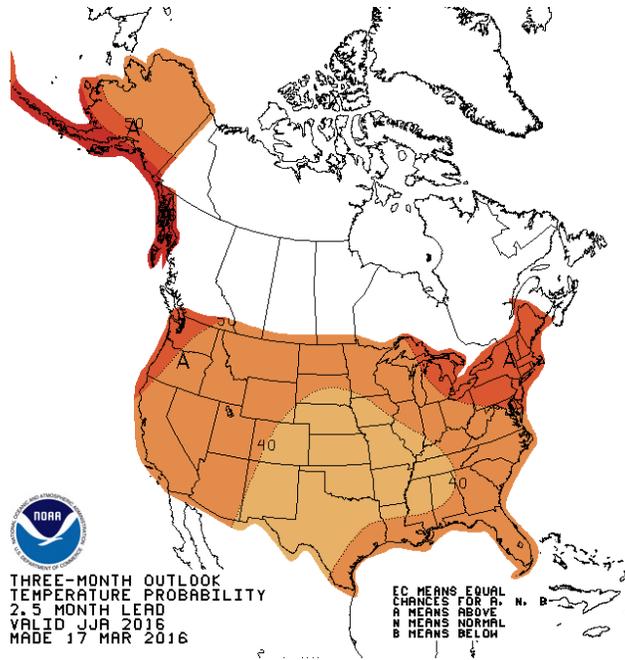
Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

June/July/Aug. Outlook

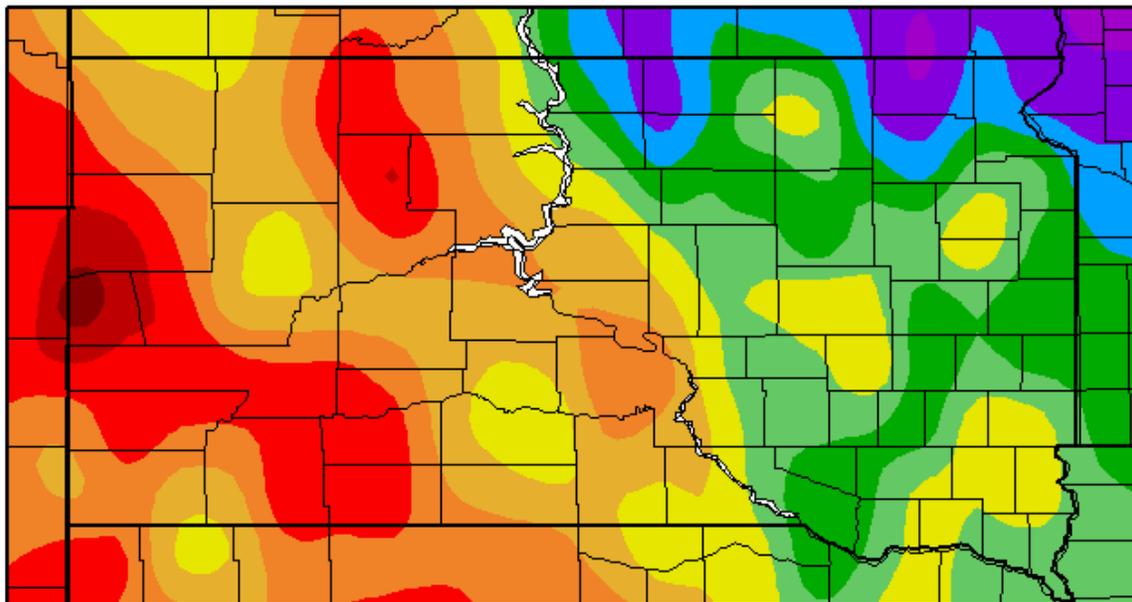


Western SD Outlook Summary

- Things to consider
 - Historical and predicted:
 - Temperature
 - Precipitation
 - Drought
 - Snowpack/El Nino
- Average Large Fire Potential
 - *Weather conditions will dictate local fire potential for any given day at any given location*

Past 3 Months

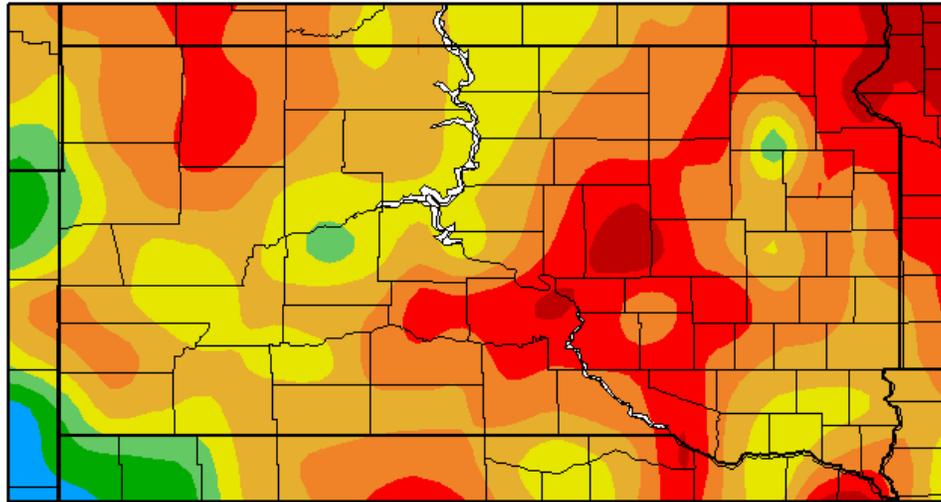
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/8/2016 – 4/14/2016



Generated 4/15/2016 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
1/16/2016 - 4/14/2016



Generated 4/15/2016 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Brown: Thanks Daren. Are there any questions?

Bobzien: Jason Virtue, Dick Terry and Rob Lehman are next on the agenda.

Black Hills National Forest 2016 Fire Season Preparedness ~ Jason Virtue

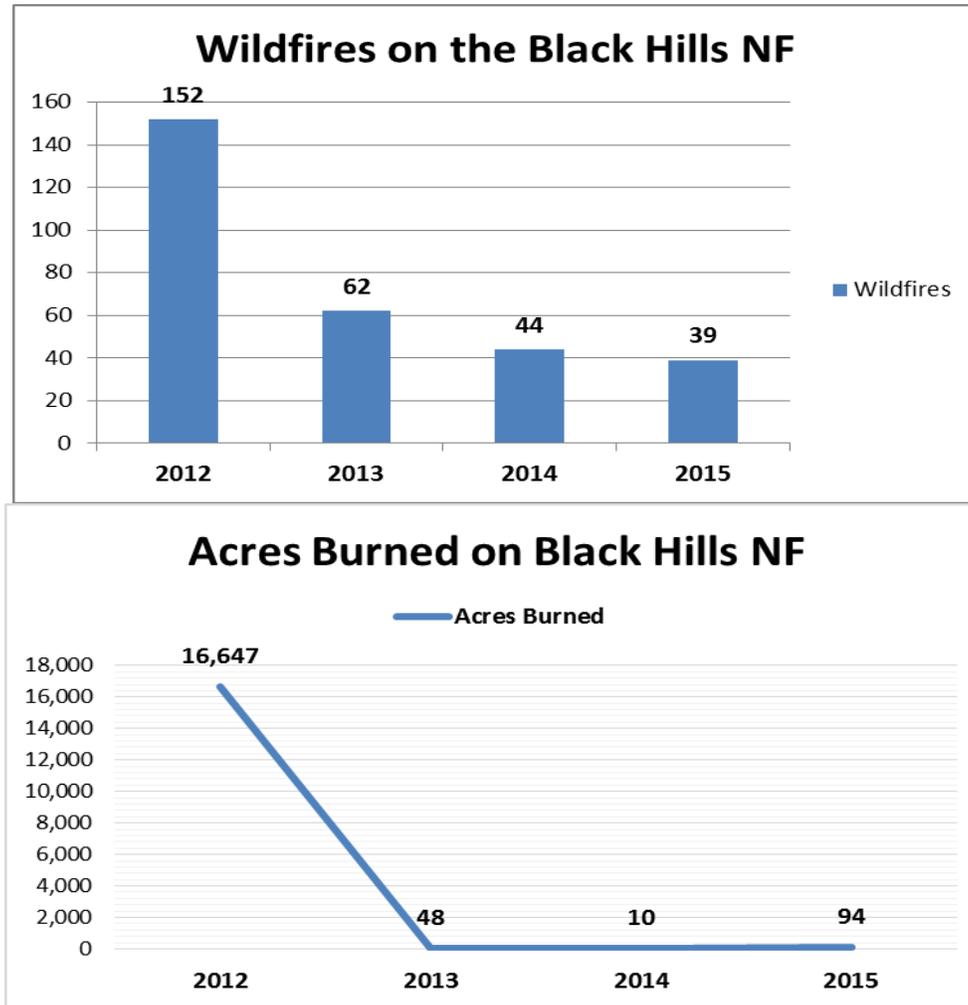
Discussion Points

1. 2015 At a Glance
2. Preparations for 2016
3. Forest Restoration

Fire History

- In the last 30 years, an average of 110 wildfires have burned 8,772 acres per year
- 97% of wildfires less than 1-2 ac.
- 3% extended attack
- Large, escaped fires = highest suppression cost
- Response to wildfires can occur 12 months of the year

BKF Fire Statistics



Resources available for firefighting:

- 140 qualified firefighters
- 15 support personnel
- Forest Service militia

Totalling approximately 230 personnel

2016 Fire Preparedness

- 14 engines
- 2 hand crews
- 2 dozers
- 1 type 3 helicopter
- 1 – 7 person Veteran Fire Team
- 1 – Boxelder Job Corp Hand crew
- All resources will be staffed
- May –October

2016 Fire Preparedness

(National Shared Resources (NSR))

- Type 1 Helicopter Available from 6/15/16 – 9/13/16
- Tatanka Hotshot Crew available May-October
- A full service Air tanker Base located at Rapid City Regional Airport.

An Interagency Dispatch Center staffed year-long provides single point ordering and coordination of firefighters, equipment and supplies

- No single wildland fire agency can do the job alone
- Strong interagency cooperation is critical to a successful fire suppression program
- Interagency cooperation in the Black Hills is supported at all levels by the following agencies: (agency logos in presentation).

Forest Restoration

- 3,800 Prescribed Fire acres burned from 2014-2016
 - 33,634 acres in burn plans
- ~16,193 acres thinned
- ~3,000 brush piles burned over the winter

Conclusion

- Our Interagency fire fighting resources will be ready

Brown: Question about the aircraft. They aren't permanently stationed there?

Virtue: correct. The resources go where the activity is.

Brenneisen: Give us a little history of the cold fire. What was it burning through? A lot of piles, mortality? Was the end result a good thing?

Virtue – The cause is under investigation. The fire burned into an area that was recently a prescribed fire. Once it hit that area, the fire behavior dropped to the ground. There wasn't a lot of heavy fuels left to burn. It burned active at night in the grass and with low relative humidity. We had a day shift and night shift and took advantage of the night shift by burning out along the roads. It was perfect conditions for prescribed fire. The fire kept on the ground and we were able to get a black line all around the fire. On day 3 we used a helicopter that did aerial ignition to get that pocket burned up. You couldn't ask for a better spot for this fire because of the section 2 prescribed fire that it burned in to. Because of that, we were able to stop it.

Rob Lehman: assistant chief trainee fuels – Jay Esperance asked Lehman to do presentation for SDWF. For us for initial attack, we use same forces as last year. With volunteers, we are starting to see volunteer numbers go down. Fewer volunteers reduces firefighting forces. We have had slow seasons and you talk to other organizations where they stop at the boundary; our interagency cooperation is about as good as it gets. We sort out the politics later. When a fire starts, we all get to the fire and put it out. Section 2 prescribed fire was a huge success at stopping the cold fire. 1700 acres burned in Custer State Park. We had a discussion with interagency folks about more RX fire out there, as a group. Allows for more potential to stop large fires. Question is; how do we implement those and budget for those and make that happen. On the state side, we have 2 hand crews that are funded by grants to do fuels mitigation work.

They cut trees on state and private lands. One crew is 100% looking at housing subdivisions – we want 50% of people in subdivisions to participate but they are a little slow to catching on. Trying to reduce fuel loading to protect houses. Animals move in, then after a few do, more will follow. Cost share program available (50% program) where landowner will pay 50% and state pays 50%. If you won't protect your home, there is not enough firefighters to protect your home. We physically can't put a fire structure at every home. Training for the volunteers: It wasn't cost effective to have them travel across the state so we started an academy in Fort Pierre area. The bulk of classes are held there and we have a mid-winter muster in Pennington County and a group out east that holds training every spring. There are approximately 100 – 160 students at academies – very cost effective.

Brown: Thank you Rob. Any questions?

Bobzien: I would like to introduce Mr. Dick Terry. He is a District Forester in Wyoming, a member of the Mountain Pine Beetle working group and forest health working group and leader in fire.

Dick Terry: The state of WY is in a transition zone. We have apps out for FMO and rural fire trainer positions. We have a big change – fire wranglers out of Riverton is no more. That led to an increase from the inmates in Newcastle – 2 crews (40 some folks) smoke busters – exclusive to WY and Black Hills – when things are hectic, they will be here. Our helicopter comes on board June 15 – Sept. 27 – exclusive for WY, CO, Mont. and Black Hills. Initial Attack response is from the counties. Crook County is in process of hiring a fire warden.

Krueger: helicopter?

Terry: Type 2 based out of Glenrock.

Brown: Fires have an impact on the budget. Money has to come from some place. Next item – required to have an election.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman ~ Chairman Brown

Bobzien: With that, I would like to go ahead and suggest as a board that you open for nominations for chair and vice chair. Term is for one 1 year.

Bob Burns: I would nominate chairman brown to continue as chair.

Bobzien: any seconds or other nominations. Dave Hague and Mary Zimmerman.

Tieszen moves that nominations cease and Brown be nominated.

Whalen: 2nd

Bobzien: those in favor please say I. All I

Brown: thank you – it is a great honor to serve as chair and we have an important mission. Next office for vice chairman – any nominations?

Tysdal: I would move that Bob Burns serve as vice chairman.

Brown: Seconded by Danielle. Those in favor – please say Aye – all Aye. With that congrats to Bob Burns.

Brown: Other comments or observations by comments of the board?

Public Comments ~ Chairman Brown

Brown: At this time we would like to take comments from the public. If there is anyone in the audience that would like to make comment related to the topics discussed today, please do so at this time.

Kent Jacobs: Avid mountain biker, fat bike, outdoors rec user. I recently became president of Black Hills Mountain Bike Association. I want to express the root of that issue that led to an appearance there was no communication or lack thereof. We need more face to face time with rangers and forest supervisor. I'm not asking for daily calls. In the off road community, we have met with the Northern Hills Ranger District, Rhonda, and we are not asking for people to make promises that they can't keep. We have incremental progress with what we are seeing and our issues. But what we are all after is incremental progress towards our individual goals.

Brown: We will try to get everyone on the same page – collaboration and partnership is a hallmark of this board.

Brent Kertzman – previous president of Black Hills Mountain Bike Assoc. before Kent. I want to thank Supervisor Bobzien. I bear the burden as the guy, and I feel like a bad guy and good guy, but I'm here to ask for a more transparent, open ended communication. It seems like we've had a lot of lip service and wasted time as volunteers. We have about a 25 year relationship with Mystic Ranger District. We were able to build Buzzards Roost and it's been baby steps. It seems like we get a lot of spurious notions from the agency; they tell us what we want to hear and then shoe us out the door. One thing that struck me is I noticed a lack of loops for trial runners and mountain bikers like those loops. As I added data to maps I used motorized trail and what we are advocating is we would like to see a European system that aren't just built for mountain bikes but for multi-use. We'd like to see communities interconnected. We are a tourism oriented market and I believe there are millions of dollars that have been lost due to inaction of the agency.

Sam Griner: Very good that you are expressing your points of view. 18,000 acres have been taken away from you because you are just a prospector. My understanding is that you could do what you want to do. I empathize with you as far as where you are coming from. You are using motorized trails to make mountain bike trails.

Tieszen: (Speaking to Chairman) Request comments from the public go to the board and not to other members of the public.

Brown: Thank you. Would the public please provide their points of view to the board? You'll have 30 seconds to address the board.

Griner: The area where we are being eliminated from and you did a travel management – you have bikers, hikers and others allowed in this area. We found out through our studies that what you are trying to protect is damaged as much by hikers, bikers and horseback users. Why can they go there and not us?

Brown: At the next meeting we will try and get the big picture and multiple interest and this is a venue to visit and be aware on these important issues of different users. We are one of two advisory boards in the nation that have the opportunity to understand the issues. We all feel strongly about the Black Hills.

Joe Skillis: I'm a long time resident of Rapid City and have been recreating in the Black hills for vast majority of my life. As a recreation user, I sit on the Black Hills Mountain Bike Association board and want to express concerns about illegal trail activity in the hills and a number that are very well known. Fat bike tire has held events, attracts tourism which put a face on recreation in Rapid City. Regarding trails not adopted by FS and not recognized, we want to work with the FS to adopt these into the trail system so that we can put Rapid City even more on the map. It can bring money to our state.

Brown: Resolution you saw earlier – final resolve (add resolution note)

Bobzien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I had an interview this morning with the RC Journal and was asked some broad questions and gets me to thinking about big picture. It's been an honor for me to serve but more importantly I'm honored by your service. As I look through the room and see the people in the back of the room, there are people that have worked behind the scenes, applied for the board and were selected. It's by work that dedicated people did here, what about the board and why does that service matter? One of the things that was exciting to me about the Black Hills and one thing from Rick Cables that had some experience was if we didn't have the board, we would be at the different organizations and consulting and engaging the public differently. We listen to public comment, but the value of your service and your time and listening to one another with this board takes a lot of patience. I respect your commitment and time. When I look at the final analysis; myself, rangers and others, we have to have a response to the public for decisions we make. We have the gift to listen to one another. Sometimes these policies are tough and through respectful dialogue it has been a gift to me. For future and present generations, your presence and creativity and all that you bring to make this board special and have a more valuable special place on the Black Hills. Thank you for your continued passion and friendships.

ADJOURN

Brown: Are there any more comments? If not, could I have a motion to adjourn? Motion to adjourn by Josh Van Vlack; seconded by Bob Burns. The motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2016.