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Dear Interested Party,,

I am pleased to release the final Bighorn National Forest's Recreation Site Analysis and Five- year Program of Work. I want to thank everyone who participated in this effort and provided us with feedback. An executive summary and a copy of the final document are available on Bighorn RSA web page:

(<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/bighorn/home/?cid=STELPRD3851207>)

It is an analytical and advisory document intended to inform recreation program investment and site management strategies for the next five years. The overall goal is long-term sustainability for our developed recreation program in light of fiscal realities and visitor expectations.

We have approached this project acutely aware of the economic impacts the National Forest's recreation program has on businesses, governments, and residents of local communities. The increasing economic importance of tourism is widely recognized and the mountains are a significant attraction. The national forest's diverse outdoor opportunities are also important to our way of life around the Bighorn Mountains.

At the same time, the Forest Service faces significant fiscal challenges. The Recreation Site Analysis and Program of Work aims to balance the Forest's projected staffing and funding levels with the interests of visitors in public services, health and safety, and environmental conditions.

Administrative and maintenance actions identified in the program of work, which are not subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, will be implemented when feasible. The public will have another opportunity to comment during a future environmental analysis for any project involving substantial ground-disturbing actions at developed recreation sites and subject to NEPA.

Please contact Dave McKee, Recreation Staff Officer, at [dfmckee@fs.fed.us](mailto:dfmckee@fs.fed.us) or (307) 674-2636, if you have any questions or concerns about the Recreation Site Analysis and Five-year Program of Work.

Thank you for your interest in the Bighorn National Forest and for helping us move toward a sustainable long-term recreation program.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. BASS  
Forest Supervisor

