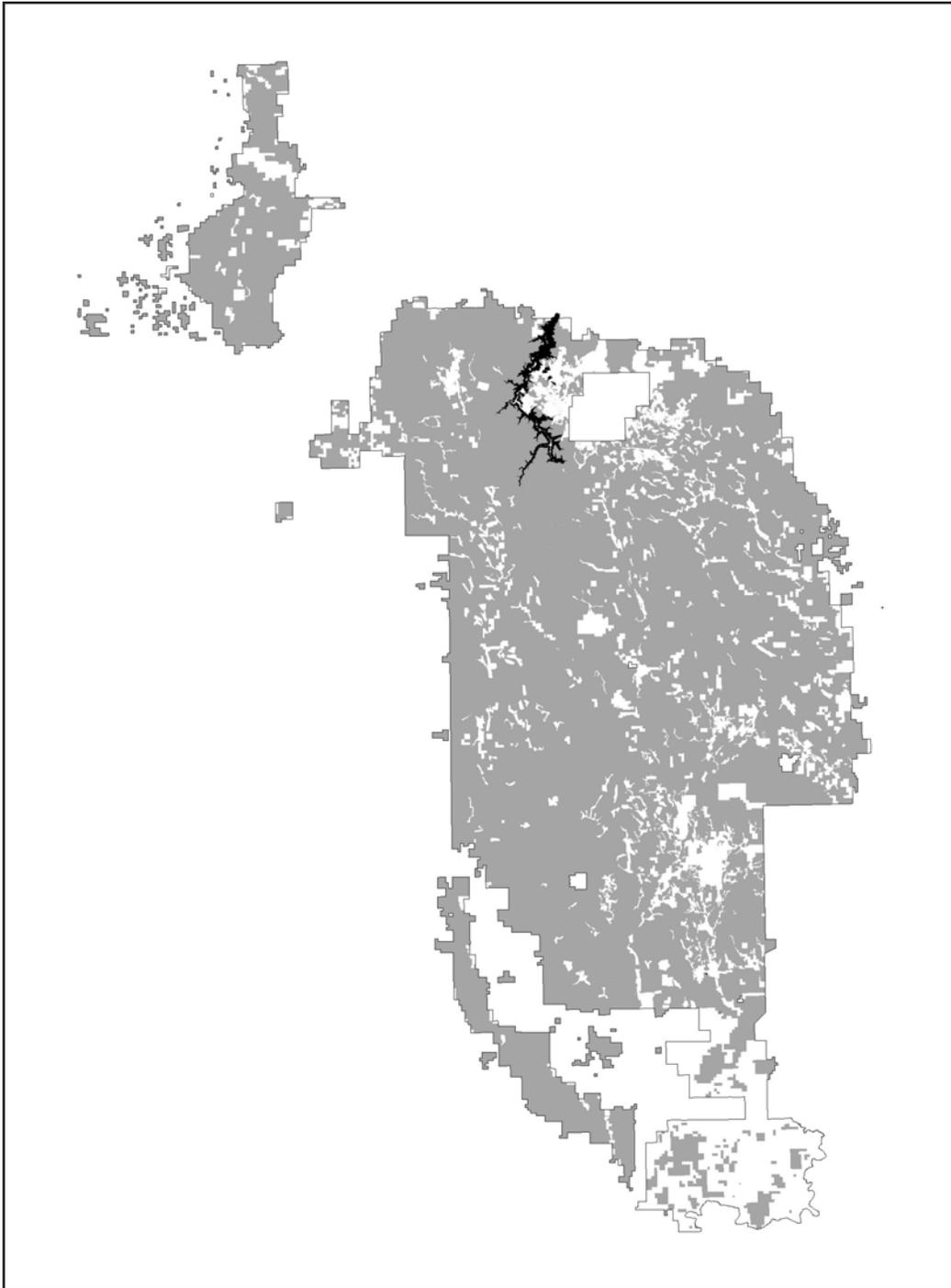


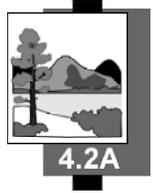
Management Area 4.2A Spearfish Canyon

Theme: This area is managed for recreational opportunities in roaded settings that appear natural.





Management Area 4.2A
9,769 Acres
Less than 1 percent of Forest



Setting: Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway is a 20-mile drive popular with the traveling public. It provides spectacular scenery, historical mining remnants, and an all-season paved highway. This Byway, approved by the Chief of the Forest Service in 1989, allows public access to numerous outdoor recreational activities. This section of U.S. Highway 14A, from the city of Spearfish to Cheyenne Crossing, receives very high recreational use throughout the year, but especially during the summer and fall.

The scenery along Spearfish Canyon is unique and often spectacular. The narrow canyon walls rise sharply from the stream and highway carved from the bottom of the canyon. A forest of white spruce, ponderosa pine, aspen, birch and oak covers most of the hillsides and parts of the canyon walls. Above these slopes, the skyline is topped with an extensive ridge of vertical limestone cliffs and rimrock.

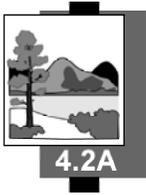
Riparian vegetation grows in abundance near Spearfish Creek. The creek often runs fast, so rapids and waterfalls may be seen within or near the Byway. This area has several plant and animal species of concern, including several rare snail species. Species from the Region 2 sensitive species list have been found within this area.

Spearfish Canyon is historically important to the northern Black Hills because it has provided mineral ore to the local mines, railway passenger transportation, and hydroelectric power and drinking water to nearby communities. Remnants of some of these mines and mining communities are still present and can be viewed from the highway.

Activities and Opportunities:

Non-motorized Dispersed Recreation	Yes
On-Road Motorized Vehicles	Yes
Off-Road Motorized Vehicles	No, except administrative
Timber Harvesting	Minimal
Livestock Grazing	No
Mineral Development	Valid and Existing Rights Only

Desired Future Condition: Landscapes adjacent to the road corridors appear natural. Existing facilities, such as powerlines and roads, may be obvious to the casual observer. Management activities are likely to be less evident, be of short duration and be more natural in appearance than in many other areas of the forest.



Management Area 4.2A

While ponderosa pine is usually the most conspicuous tree species, visitors may see large areas of white spruce, aspen, birch, bur oak and other hardwoods. Overall, the forest vegetation is diverse. Interpretation and signing of scenic and historic attributes are provided along the Byway, and describe the Spearfish Canyon environment. Many pull-over areas are provided along the shoulder of the Byway. Day-use facilities, such as picnic grounds, are provided along the Byway.

Hiking trails curl into the woods and above the creek. Opportunities for scenic photography and bird watching exist. Other wildlife representative of the Black Hills may be seen in Spearfish Canyon. Projects to enhance wildlife habitat may be conducted in and along the creek or in forested portions of the byway. Areas of botanical interest will be conserved or enhanced. Areas of botanical interest within the canyon may be studied to try to identify what factors have led to the area's characteristic habitat.

Management Area Goals and Objectives

Social Elements

Scenery Management

4.2A-401. Emphasize visually appealing landscapes such as vista openings, rock outcroppings, and diversity of vegetation. **GOAL**

Management Area Standards and Guidelines

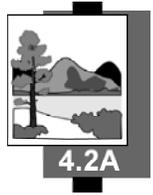
Physical Elements

Minerals

4.2A-1501. Issue no mineral material permits for commercial development of common variety minerals. **STANDARD**

4.2A-1502. For withdrawal from mineral entry or surface occupancy, the Forest will use the rim-to-rim description as listed in Senate Bill No. 111 of the seventieth session of the South Dakota Legislature. **STANDARD**

4.2A-1503. All applications for lease will have the "no surface occupancy" stipulation for this management area. **STANDARD**



Biological Elements -- Flora

Forest Communities

4.2A-2101. Protect unique biological features. **STANDARD**

4.2A-2102. Tentatively suitable lands within this area do not contribute to the allowable sale quantity and are not part of the suitable land base. **STANDARD**

Rangeland

4.2A-2501. The management area is designated unsuitable to grazing and is closed to this use. **STANDARD**

4.2A-2502. Livestock may occasionally be used as a tool to achieve management objectives, such as noxious weed control, hazard reduction of fine fuels, pre-planting treatment and maintenance of grass/shrub health, etc. **GUIDELINE**

Biological Elements -- Fauna

Wildlife

4.2A-3201. Encourage habitat improvement projects that increase the potential for viewing and interpreting a variety of wildlife species without attracting them to roadsides. **GUIDELINE**

Disturbance Processes

Fire and Fuels

4.2A-4101. *Manage fire and fuels through various methods to protect the biological and scenic values, but in the wildland-urban interface the priority will be fuel reduction. **STANDARD**

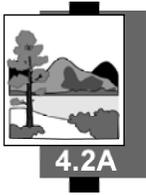
Social Elements

Recreation

4.2A-5101. The recreation opportunity spectrum class is roaded natural. **GUIDELINE**

4.2A-5102. Allow recreation use with emphasis on interpretation and education when it does not threaten the biological values, as well as the scenic values, for which the Scenic Byway was designated. **STANDARD**

4.2A-5103. Protect the area from actual or potential damage due to public use. Utilize closures under 36 CFR Subpart B when necessary. **STANDARD**



Management Area 4.2A

Scenery Management

4.2A-5601. The adopted scenic integrity objectives (SIO) are:

High = 5,836 Acres

Moderate = 3,461 Acres

Low = 1,406 Acres

GUIDELINE

Administrative Elements

Facilities

4.2A-8401. Facilities should be designed, located and managed in compliance with the SIOs of the area and enhance the experience and enjoyment of the users.

GUIDELINE

Transportation and Travel

(Exceptions to travel restrictions/prohibitions may be allowed for administrative uses.)

4.2A-9101. In areas where there are special features, design roads and trails to blend with the landscape and provide opportunities for viewing enjoyment.

STANDARD

4.2A-9102. Restrict motorized travel, including over-snow, to designated routes.

GUIDELINE

4.2A-9103. Prohibit off-road motorized travel. **STANDARD**

the vicinity of Keystone, some evidence of mining can be seen from the corridor for Norbeck.