



File Code: 1950

Date: September 14, 2007

Greetings,

The Northern Hills Ranger District is proposing a variety of actions to address forest health issues including hazardous fuel accumulation and mountain pine beetle risk in the West Rim project area, located in the vicinity of Spearfish Canyon near Spearfish, South Dakota. The possibility of widespread beetle infestations and high-severity wildfires poses a risk to forest resources and human property in the project area.

This summary is being mailed to citizens and organizations who have expressed an interest in management of the Black Hills National Forest or who own land in or adjacent to the project area. Solicitation of public comments is an important step in the planning process. Your comments will contribute to our understanding of the project area and issues regarding forest management in this area. The process will continue with development of alternatives to the proposed action, analysis of effects, and release of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement in 2008.

We invite you to comment on the proposed action described in this summary and look forward to your input on management of the West Rim project area. Written comments can be mailed to: Northern Hills Ranger District, Attn: West Rim Project, 2014 North Main St., Spearfish, SD 57783. Comments can also be submitted via email to: comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-northern-hills@fs.fed.us. If submitting comments via email, please indicate "West Rim Project" in the subject line. Faxed comments should be sent to (605) 642-4156. For any questions, please contact myself or Assistant NEPA Planner Chris Stores at (605) 642-4622.

Thank you for your continued interest in management of your National Forest.

Sincerely,

RHONDA O'BYRNE
District Ranger

Enclosure: West Rim Proposed Action and Request for Comments

