

# News Release

USDA Forest Service

Bighorn National Forest

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## **Bighorn National Forest completes analysis of the forest's road system**

**Sheridan, Wyo.** (June 12, 2015) - The Bighorn National Forest has completed an analysis of the Bighorn's road system as required by the 2005 Travel Management Rule. All national forests are required to complete this analysis by September 30, 2015. Forests that do not complete the analysis by this deadline will lose annual road maintenance funding.

The Travel Management Rule directs the Forest Service to identify the most ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable road system. The road-by-road analysis, which weighed benefits and risks for each road, resulted in recommendations for a minimum road system on the Bighorn National Forest. The recommendations are displayed in the Travel Analysis Report, available for public review on the Bighorn's web site [www.fs.usda.gov/bighorn/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/bighorn/).

Recommendations include no change in the total miles of paved roads and gravel roads suitable for passenger cars. The report recommends reducing eight percent of high clearance roads by 58 miles: 43 miles through decommissioning and 15 miles through closures. The report also recommends reducing 23 percent of closed timber operations roads by 110 miles through decommissioning.

"The travel analysis is not a decision making process and the report is not a decision," said forest supervisor Bill Bass. "The purpose is to develop recommendations that will be reviewed as part of the National Environmental Policy Act process for future projects. Recommendations will be reviewed and may be carried forward, rejected, or changed, depending on the project. And of course full public participation is part of that."

The public is welcome to submit comments on the report. Comments received by July 15, 2015, will be included in a public response appendix of the report. Comments can be hand delivered or sent by regular mail to Dave McKee, Bighorn National Forest, 2013 Eastside 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sheridan, WY 82801, or by email to [comments-bighorn@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-bighorn@fs.fed.us) with "travel analysis" in the subject line.

For more information please contact Dave McKee at 307-764-2636 or Jason Ruybal at 307-674-2615.

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**Ranger District**

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Buffalo, WY 82834

Phone 307.684.7806

**Tongue**

**Ranger District**

2013 Eastside Second St.

Sheridan, WY 82801

Phone 307.674.2600

**Medicine Wheel/Paintrock**

**Ranger Districts**

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Lovell, WY 82431

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