



GOAL 4:

PROVIDE FOR SCENIC QUALITY, A RANGE OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES IN RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.





Goal 4:

Provide for scenic quality, a range of recreational opportunities, and protection of heritage resources in response to the needs of the Black Hills National Forest visitors and local communities.

Discussion:

The outstanding scenery of the Black Hills is a major attraction for visitors. The Forest Service will focus its management on maintaining this high scenic quality, especially within the landscapes seen from road and trail corridors, developed recreation sites, administrative sites, and the towns and cities within the Forest.

The Forest will provide a full range of recreational opportunities, managed to create a balance of public and private uses responsive to local, regional and national demands. The greatest demand and use of the Black Hills will continue to be driving for pleasure. The recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) system will be used for facility planning and to direct recreation management.

Heritage resources will be protected and interpreted so that visitors can better understand their environment, and how

heritage resources fit into the context of multiple use management.

Forest trails will provide recreation opportunities for persons with disabilities, hikers, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, horseback riders, all-terrain vehicles, motorbikes and four-wheel drive vehicles. Trails typically will be managed to minimize user conflicts. The trail system will link many recreational points of interest, other agency trails, and communities to provide a diverse array of recreational opportunities and travel routes. The majority of trail opportunities will be oriented towards day use with opportunities for multi-day trips on the system of interconnecting trails. The trail system will optimize a diversity of experiences unless designed for specific activities, such as rock hounding, fishing, plant identification and viewing wildlife.

Objectives:

Scenic Values

401. Review all existing projects and areas that do not meet the adopted Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) specified for each management area, and set priorities for rehabilitation.



Goals and Objectives

402. Provide natural appearing landscapes with diverse scenery and enhance opportunities to enjoy attractive settings. Maintain the following:

SCENIC INTEGRITY OBJECTIVES (Thousands of Acres)	
Very High	15
High	169
Moderate	511
Low	546
Very Low	4

Heritage Resources

403. Improve the management of heritage resources and integrate them with recreation and education while providing for compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

- a. Increase numbers and types of heritage resource interpretive sites and opportunities. Provide five projects per year during the plan period.
- b. Conduct six heritage resource stabilization and rehabilitation projects per year during the plan period.
- c. Nominate eligible sites (approximately five per year in the plan period) to the National Register of Historic places.
- d. Inventory 50,000 acres each year in the plan period for heritage resource sites.

404. Conduct three research projects each year to support heritage resource management.

405. Manage all heritage sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places in consultation with the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

406. Provide opportunities for the public to participate in heritage management activities, including the monitoring, excavation, and protection of archeological sites.

Recreational Opportunities

407. Provide the following Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS) (Thousands of Acres)	
Primitive	15
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	38
Semi-Primitive Motorized	12
Roaded Natural	1102
Roaded Natural Non-Motorized	78
Rural	1



408. Manage recreation use to stay within the capacity for the ROS class:

ROS CLASS	CAPACITY RANGE RECREATION VISITOR DAYS (RVDs/ACRE)		
	Low	Moderate	High
Primitive	0.25	0.5	0.75
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	1.00	2.0	3.00
Semi-Primitive Motorized	1.50	3.0	4.50
Roaded Natural Non-Motorized	1.50	3.0	4.50
Roaded Natural	3.00	6.0	9.00
Rural	<<<< Design Capacity >>>>		

(See glossary for ROS capacity classes)

409. Construct and reconstruct the following recreation sites in the next decade:

- a. Construct facilities with a capacity of 1,065 People At One Time (PAOTs) in the next decade.
- b. Reconstruct facilities with a capacity of 3,950 PAOTs in the next decade.

410. Emphasize developed recreation opportunities not currently provided by the private sector. Coordinate with other recreation providers and businesses to offer the public a variety of recreation opportunity and services.

411. Correct or minimize potential risks to human lives or property in developed recreation sites. As annual inspections are done, schedule maintenance activities to correct or minimize identified problems.

412. Eliminate design barriers that prevent some groups such as the elderly and disabled from recreating in the National Forest.

413. Provide interpretation, information and environmental education as an important part of outdoor recreation. Use “Tread Lightly”, “Leave No Trace” and other techniques.

414. Extend efforts to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to customers from diverse cultural and demographic backgrounds. Include programs which interpret the traditions and heritage of ethnic groups in the National Forest.

415. Support permitted outfitters and guides operating in the National Forest.

- a. Provide for a balance between non-outfitted and outfitted publics to use the Forest.
- b. Administer permits and pursue and prosecute illegal outfitters and guides.
- c. Authorize outfitter guide use on the Forest by using temporary use permits.



Goals and Objectives

Trails

416. Maintain and construct trails as displayed in the following table:

Non-motorized Trails (1996)	293 miles
Motorized Trails (1996)	14 miles
Non-motorized Trail Construction	204 miles
Motorized Trail Construction or Conversion from Road to Motorized Trail	15 miles ¹
Total Forest Trail System	526 miles ²
Reconstruction	100 miles ¹

¹ Per decade

² Total miles at end of decade

417. Coordinate trail development with the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Develop trail facilities in cooperation with other agencies and partners.

418. Enhance the trail system to disperse use away from the Black Elk Wilderness.

419. Provide for the annual designation and management of 350 miles of snowmobile trail by the States of Wyoming and South Dakota. Annual changes to the trail system should be limited.

Travel

420. Manage travel corridors for federal, state and county roads.

- a. Meet a scenic integrity objective of high.
- b. Provide recreation facilities, trailheads, trail crossings and other road corridor components to meet demand.
- c. Include opportunities for pedestrians and bicycle ways.
- d. Use cooperative opportunities for development of outdoor facilities, such as provided for in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) as an integral part of corridor planning.

421. Provide the following road system:

ROADS (By End of the First Decade)		
Suitable for Public Use		4700 miles
Passenger Car	1200 miles	
High Clearance Vehicles	3500 miles	
Roads Closed To Vehicles		500 miles
TOTAL		5200 miles



422. Provide the following off-road travel opportunities:

CATEGORY	PERCENTAGE OF FOREST
All Motorized Travel Allowed Yearlong	59.1%
Seasonal Restrictions Apply	22.8%
Seasonal Restrictions - No Off-road Travel	3.2%
Backcountry Motorized Recreation on Designated Trails	1.0%
Only OHV Travel Prohibited	11.4%
Motorized Travel Prohibited Except Snowmobiles	1.2%
All Motorized Travel Prohibited	1.3%