

National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) MEETING-

Wednesday, March 22, 2006 1:00 pm, West River Ag Center, 1905 Plaza Drive, Rapid City, SD

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Blair, Chair; Bob Kloss, Vice Chair; James Heinert, Doug Hofer, Everett Hoyt, Ron Johsen, Jim Margadant, Pat McElgunn, James Scherrer, Nels Smith, Linda Tokarczyk, Theresa Two Bulls, and Paul Valandra.

FOREST SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES: Forest Supervisor Craig Bobzien, Deputy Forest Supervisor Brad Exton, Public Affairs Officer Frank Carroll and Lonnie Arthur, recorder.

OTHERS: Approximately 8 additional forest service employees, Congressional representatives and other members of the public were in attendance.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Aaron Everett and Bob Paulson.

Welcome and Roll Call:

Chairman Blair: Quorum present

Comments to the Chair: None

Approve Minutes:

Chair Blair: If there are no comments, additions or deletions the minutes will stand as written.

Agenda:

Chair Blair: Seeing no changes requested, the agenda will stand as presented.

Chair Blair: If there are no other changes, the agenda will stand.

Housekeeping:

Carroll: Thanks to the Boxelder Job Corps for the goodies. Since we are not at our usual meeting place, restrooms, soda machines locations.

Meeting Protocols – Issues:

Carroll: Note the E-Mail from Frank Carroll regarding Charter Revision. No further discussion.

As noted, there is the issue of RAC (Recreational Advisory Committee) duties and the Governor of WY wants to include a WY State Resource Agency on the NFAB that is an equal to the SD counterpart, i.e. Game, Fish and Parks, Doug Hofer.

We need to be comprehensive when making charter revisions to include all the issues we are addressing.

The election of officers for Chair and Vice-Chair is coming up in June 2006, which is one year from our last election.

Hot Topics:

Carroll: Provided a handout on the comment period for the Potential List of Eligible Tracts For Sale.

Kloss: Provided a handout which is a news article from the Denver Post, dated March 16, 2006 referencing “Ex-Forest Service chiefs unite against land sale”.

Regular Agenda:

Bobzien: Introduced Tom Willems as the permanent Travel Management Manager for the Black Hills National Forest.

Blair: Tom Willems is here to present an update to the NFAB from the Travel Management Sub Committee.

Willems: Provided a Power Point presentation on the recent User Needs Assessment Summary which is a compilation of the questionnaire that was provided to the general public for comment.

The subcommittee is using the same mission statement, goals and objectives that were developed when the original travel management group was formed. We, as a subcommittee of this parent board, want to highlight the Points of Progress that have been accomplished in our meetings over the past few months.

The conclusions we have reached are:

1. The Black Hills National Forest is an established destination area for OHV use.
2. We will develop an Active Trail System.
3. The trail system should connect “gateway communities”.

General discussion ensued.

Hofer: The nature of the accessibility and topography of the Black Hills are a couple of additional highlights that make them a destination area.

Valandra: Where are the users coming from?

Blair/Willems: We are experiencing a number of users who are local and the remainder are coming from the Upper Midwest.

Thompson: The Black Hills is a destination area that includes many recreational opportunities in addition to motorized vehicle travel.

Blair: I want to remind everyone that everyone that the policy for Travel Management is a directive from the Chief of the National Forest. What we are charged to do is make a recommendation of the Supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest.

Hofer: If we measure the use and/or growth of OHV travel in the Black Hills we will have a barometer of how much time we have to get our mission accomplished.

Kloss: Is the Chief’s mandate funded and is there a time frame of 4 years to accomplish our task?

Bobzien: The time frame is essentially 4 years. However, this is a directive not a mandate. As far as funding, there is no specific funding designated for this.

Johnsen/Valandra: I commend you all on a very good presentation and thank you for all of the good work that the subcommittee has accomplished.

Valandra: What about the summer study that has been mentioned?

Hofer: The Chair and Co Chair of the State Transportation Committee will be responsible for recommending a Legislative Summer Study that may include the Travel Management Guidelines.

Scherrer: As part of the Travel Management Subcommittee, we want you to know that our recommendation is forthcoming and we are keeping the board apprised.

Heinert: Are we, the subcommittee, operating within a time frame?

Blair: Legislative issues require lead-time and we need to be ready.

Valandra: The National Forest Advisory Board Subcommittee will be a valuable group when it comes to approaching legislative issues.

Break: 2:15 – 2:30 pm

BIOMASS

Kloss: Handouts and presentation from the Bioenergy and Wood Products in Denver, CO. including a possible clearinghouse for Black Hills National Forest Bio Mass and linking fire and biomass in the Black Hills.

General discussion ensued.

RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

Craig Kjar and Rick Hudson provided a power point presentation to update the board.

General discussion ensued during and after the presentation.

LANDS

The Lands portion of the agenda will be covered at the next scheduled meeting.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Tokarczyk: Subcommittee update, and there will be a morning presentation on April 20, at Meyer Hall, Black Hills State University from 9:30 – 12:00 am focusing on Black Hills Invasive Weeds.

Hoyt: What about the algae that has been discovered in Rapid Creek, should that be included in our invasive species?

Tokarczyk: That certainly is a topic for consideration, but we have been charged with the primary focus of invasive weeds.

General discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Blair: We have completed the agenda and we are ready to receive public comments.

Sandrini: Made comments on Land Sales Parcels, Travel Management Survey Data, the design of the survey, Bearlodge designations for Big Game Management areas in the context of the Forest Planning process.

Bobzien/Exton: Some of the points that you have presented are new information to us, and we want to emphasize that this is the forum for including public comments.

General discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

Blair: Our next meeting is scheduled for April 19 at the West River Ag Center.

Seeing no further business, we stand adjourned.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 pm.