



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Forest Futures

Bridger-Teton Forest Plan Revision Newsletter • December 2024



A Look Back at 2024 Bridger-Teton Forest Plan Revision Accomplishments

As we close out the year, we'd like to share some highlights from 2024 in our effort to revise the Bridger-Teton's forest plan. Work continues on the Draft Assessment, in preparation for the 2025 public release.

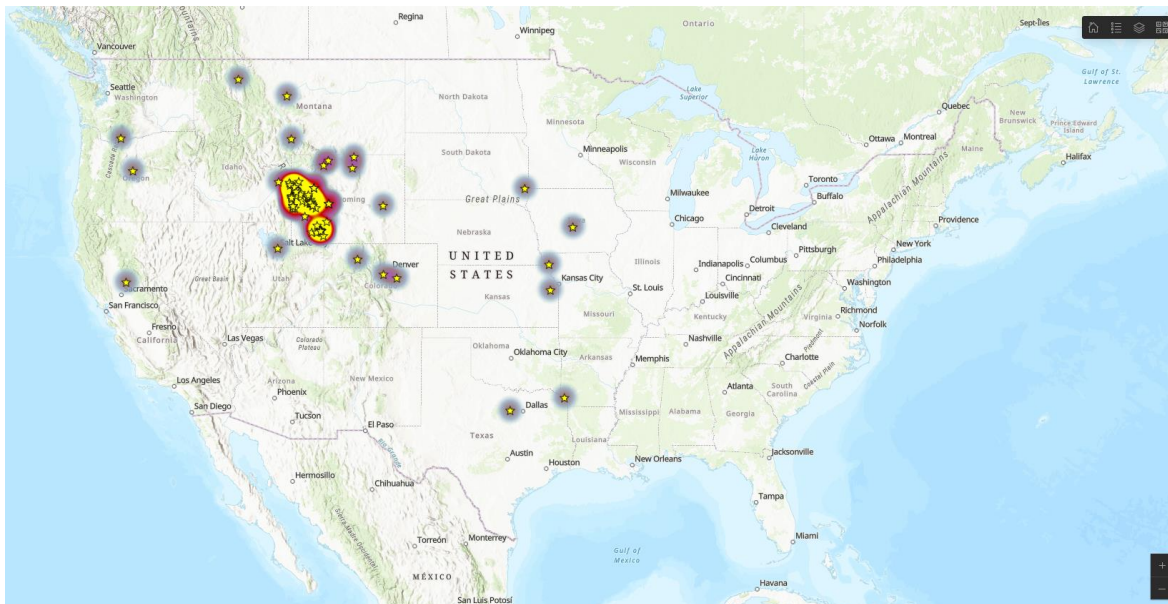
2024 Major Accomplishments

- A Forest Plan Symposium was hosted with the assistance of Friends of the Bridger-Teton and the University of Wyoming. The symposium did not focus specifically on the Bridger-Teton but rather was intended to provide information from panelists who had been through other forest plans and could provide advice and lessons learned. The symposium was simultaneously held in-person in Jackson, Afton, Pinedale, and Kemmerer, and live-streamed virtually online;
- Informational tables were staffed at Alpine Mountain Days, Jackson Town Square, Lincoln and Sublette county fairs, People's Market in Jackson, and Kemmerer Discovery Days. Informal chats were held with some individuals and groups to listen to their interest in forest planning;
- Initiated consultation with Tribes;
- Multiple meetings were held with cooperating agencies, including Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette, and Teton County commissioners, conservation districts, and 10 departments with the State of Wyoming;
- Released the 2024 Report: [Study of Preferences and Values on the Bridger-Teton National Forest](#), funded by the State of Wyoming, and Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette, and Teton counties and produced by Jessica M. Western, Big Goose Creek Resolutions;

- Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register;
- Completed Regional Office (RO) review of the Draft Assessment;
- Revamped the [Plan Revision Hub](#) on the Bridger-Teton website;
- And began distribution of this, *Forest Futures*, newsletter to communicate updates and provide information on the forest planning process

Public Comment Form Results

As part of the forest plan revision kick-off early in 2024, the Forest produced a story map and invited the public to provide feedback about special places, values, trends, and important topics they think the Forest should focus on for the future. One hundred twenty-seven people responded through the online comment form. People who responded were mostly from communities near the Bridger-Teton, with some commenting from outside the area. See map below for details.



When asked what they thought made the Bridger-Teton distinctive or unique compared to other lands in the region, the top themes from respondents included access, recreation, wildlife, and mountains.

See the word cloud (right) for more themes from respondents.





On the Horizon for 2025

The Forest Plan Revision Team is currently working with cooperating agencies and preparing for the public release of the Draft Assessment in 2025. The Draft Assessment is the first step in the process to update direction of the forest plan and serves as a “status report” of the Forest. The report will summarize existing ecological, social and economic conditions, and trends affecting the Bridger-Teton. It is not a decision document, however, it will provide the foundation to determine what needs to change to improve guidance for Forest management into the future.

We look forward to hosting public and virtual meetings and beginning the formal public comment period, and we will provide updates as these plans become formalized. Please stay tuned for more details.



Meet Acting Forest Planner Matt Gaffney

Bridger-Teton’s forest planner, Dominique Brough, is currently serving on a detail with the USDA Forest Service’s Intermountain Region and will be in that role until February 2025. In the interim, Matt Gaffney is currently serving as the acting forest planner. Matt is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coordinator for the Pinedale and Big Piney ranger districts and has lived in Pinedale since 2010. He has worked as an environmental planner and attorney for 20 years and is excited to be part of the forest plan

revision process. If you have any forest planning questions or needs, please reach out to Matt at Matthew.Gaffney@usda.gov.



Plan Revision Hub

Learn More

No place stays the same, they are always changing. Just as the land and communities change, so must forest plans. With the Bridger-Teton Forest Plan now over 30 years old, it is time for an update. Help shape the future of the Bridger-Teton National Forest so together we can care for the land and serve people for generations to come. Scan the code and visit the Bridger-Teton [Plan Revision Hub](#) to learn more.

For more news, events, and information, visit fs.usda.gov/btnf and follow the Bridger-Teton National Forest on [Facebook](#) and [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) @BridgerTetonNF.

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