



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Black Hills National Forest Fee Proposal Brief

National Forest Advisory Board

January 17, 2024

Agenda



Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

March 2010



Record of Decision

Black Hills National Forest Travel Management Plan

Black Hills National Forest
Custer, South Dakota

- Fee Proposal General Information
- Fee Collection Authority
- Black Hills Proposals
- Fee Proposal Process
- Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
- Implementation



Authority to Collect Fees

Amenity Fees and Special Recreation Permit Fees

- The Forest is granted the authority to collect amenity fees and special recreation permit fees under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.
- 95% of the funds generated through permit sales come back to the Forest for operations of the

Authority to Collect Fees

Amenity Fees and Special Recreation Permit Fees

- Any fee increase, decrease, new fee, change in fee structure, or fee elimination requires both regional and national review and approval prior to review and recommendation by Forest Service Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (Recreation RAC, RRAC).

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

- The Black Hills NF has submitted Fee Proposal Requests for:
 - Day Use Areas
 - Campgrounds
 - Rental Cabins
 - The Motorized Trail System

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Day Use Areas for Consideration

- **Central Hills (7)**

- Deerfield Reservoir Complex
 - Lake Shore Picnic Area
 - Mountain City Picnic Area
- Pactola Reservoir Complex
 - Jenney Gulch Picnic Area / Fishing Access
 - Pactola Point Picnic Area
- Sheridan Lake Complex
 - Dakota Point Picnic Area
 - Sheridan North Picnic Area
 - Sheridan South Picnic Area
 - Spring Creek Picnic Area

- **Northern Hills-Spearfish (2)**

- Dalton Lake Picnic Area
- Steamboat Rock
- Strawberry Recreation Site

- **Bearlodge District**

- Cook Lake Recreation Area

- **Southern Hills (2)**

- Bismark Lake Picnic Area
- Lakota Lake Picnic Area

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Campgrounds for Consideration

• **Northern Hills (8)**

- Boxelder Forks Campground
- Dalton Lake Campground
- Roubaix Lake Campground
- Hanna Campground
- Rod & Gun Campground
- Timon Campground
- Steamboat Rock
- Strawberry Recreation Site

• **Bearlodge District (4)**

- Bearlodge Campground
- Cook Lake Recreation Area
- Reuter Campground
- Sundance (Horse Camp)

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Campgrounds for Consideration

- **Central Hills (10)**

- Black Fox Campground
- Castle Peak Campground
- Custer Trail Campground
- Dutchman Campground
- Whitetail Campground
- Ditch Creek Campground
- Pactola Campground
- Sheridan Lake South Campground
- Bear Gulch (Group Site)
- Sheridan Lake North Cove (Group Sites)

- **Southern Hills (9)**

- Beaver Creek Campground
- Bismark Lake Campground
- Horsethief Lake Campground
- Iron Creek (Horse Camp)
- Willow Creek (Horse Camp)
- Comanche Park Campground
- Grizzly Bear Campground
- Oreville Campground
- Redbank Springs Campground

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Group Sites for Consideration

- Bear Gulch Group Campground
- Sheridan Lake Group Campground
- Both locations are popular with hunters as a base camp, so lots of use into the shoulder seasons.
- Concessionaire operates currently - FS would operate during “shoulder season”

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Rental Cabins for Consideration

- Cabins – 2
 - Summit Ridge Cabin:
 - Hell Canyon District
 - Open Year-round,
 - FS-operated,
 - Current Fee: \$35/night
 - Proposed Fee: TBD
 - Meeker Cabin
 - Hell Canyon District
 - Not yet available for rental
 - Starting the process to renovate for rental.
 - Likely 2025/2026 before opened.

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Special Permit Fee for Consideration

- Motorized Trail System

Travel Management Decision

USDA

Agriculture

Forest Service

March 2010

Record of Decision

Black Hills National Forest Travel Management Plan

Black Hills National Forest
Custer, South Dakota

- Effective Date: December 1, 2010
- Brought Forest in Compliance with 2005 Travel Management Rule
- Closed the Forest to cross country travel unless designated open



Travel Management Decision

USDA

Agriculture

Forest Service

March 2010

Record of Decision

Black Hills National Forest Travel Management Plan

Black Hills National Forest
Custer, South Dakota

- IAW that Decision
 - Special Recreation Permit Fee System was approved
 - Motorized Trail



Motorized Trail Permit Fees

Annual Permit - \$25

7-Day Permit - \$20

Commercial Permit - \$125

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Why Request for Fees?

- **Campgrounds and Day Use Areas**
 - Fee Proposal Request is for the "Shoulder Season"(when the campground concessionaire is not operating)
 - Forest to use the fee proposal to 'clean up' inconsistencies in fee amounts charged, amenities offered etc.
 - Example. Day Use – 15 - Some districts collect fees in off-season, some do not; some forests collect X-fee in off-season, others collect Y-fee in off-season.

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Why Request for Fees?

- **Rental Cabins**

- Summit Ridge Cabin:
 - Hell Canyon District
 - Open Year-round,
 - FS-operated,
 - Current Fee: \$35/night
 - Proposed Fee: TBD
- Improvements are needed
- Increase in Maintenance and Operation Costs

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Why Request for Fees?

- **Rental Cabins**
 - Meeker Cabin
 - Hell Canyon District
 - Not yet available for rental
 - Starting the process to renovate for rental.
 - Likely 2025/2026 before opened, FS operate
 - Improvements are needed
 - New Request to charge a fee

Black Hills Fee Proposal Requests

Why Request for Fees?

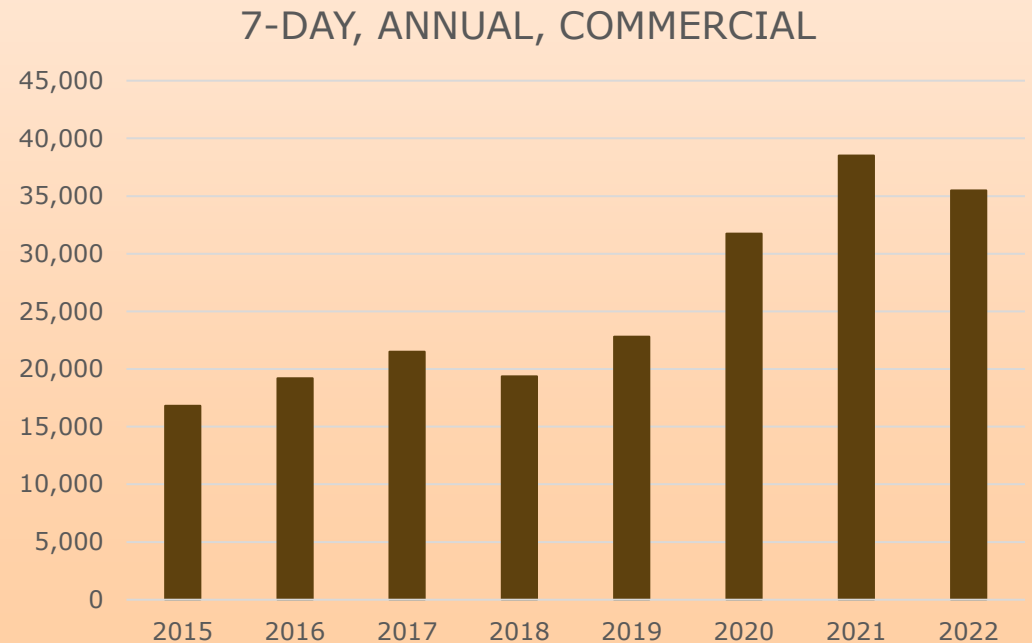
- **Special Recreation Fee**
 - **Motorized Trail System**
 - Increasing Costs in Maintenance, Operation, Improvement, Education, Enforcement, Salary for Motorized Trail Organization

Total Permit Sales

Permit Sales

How Many Permits Are Sold?

YEAR	7-DAY, ANNUAL, COMMERCIAL
2015	16,804
2016	19,198
2017	21,508
2018	19,371
2019	22,811
2020	31,728
2021	38,521
2022	35,480



Fee Proposal Process

- **Initial Proposal(s) (fall of '23)**
 - BKNF has initiated the proposals
- **Intake Application (Jan '24)**
 - Currently in process
 - Predicted Revenue
 - Market Analysis
 - Photographs

Fee Proposal Process

- **Generate Public Involvement Materials**
 - Draft Public Outreach/Communication Plan
 - Draft News Release
 - Briefing Papers if/as needed
 - Draft Comment Cards
 - Draft Letters for Elected Officials/Tribal Officials
 - Federal Register Notice
 - Update/Revise Business Plan For Special Recreation Proposal (Motorized Trail System)

Fee Proposal Process

- **Regional Office Review/Fee Board (Apr '24)**
 - Forest presents proposal(s) to Regional Office
- **Washington Office Review (Apr – May '24)**
 - Consistency, correct information, clarity
- **Notify/inform Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (May '24)**

Fee Proposal Process

- **Public Involvement (Scheduled for end of May '24)**
 - Implement Public Outreach/Communication Plan
 - Issue News Release
 - Briefing Papers
 - Comment Cards for Public
 - Letters for Elected Officials/Tribal Officials
 - Federal Register Notice
 - Business Plan For Special Recreation Proposal (Motorized Trail System)
 - Public Meeting (if/as needed)

Fee Proposal Process

- **Record of Comments (est. July '24)**
 - All comments will be recorded
- **Regional Office/Washington Office Review (Aug '24)**
 - Review of Forest process and provide feedback
- **Forest Leadership Approval to Move Forward with Fee proposal(s) or make changes (Aug '24)**
 - Fee requests can be lowered or eliminated, but not increased

Fee Proposal Process

- **RO/WO Review (Aug - Sep '24)**
- **Produce Formal Report**
- **Forest to Present Proposal(s) to Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) (Sep '24)**
 - Report and Presentation (ie Powerpoint)
- **RRAC Letter of Recommendation (Sep '24)**
 - Recommend Approval as presented
 - Recommend Approval with recommended changes
 - Recommend to not approve

Fee Proposal Process

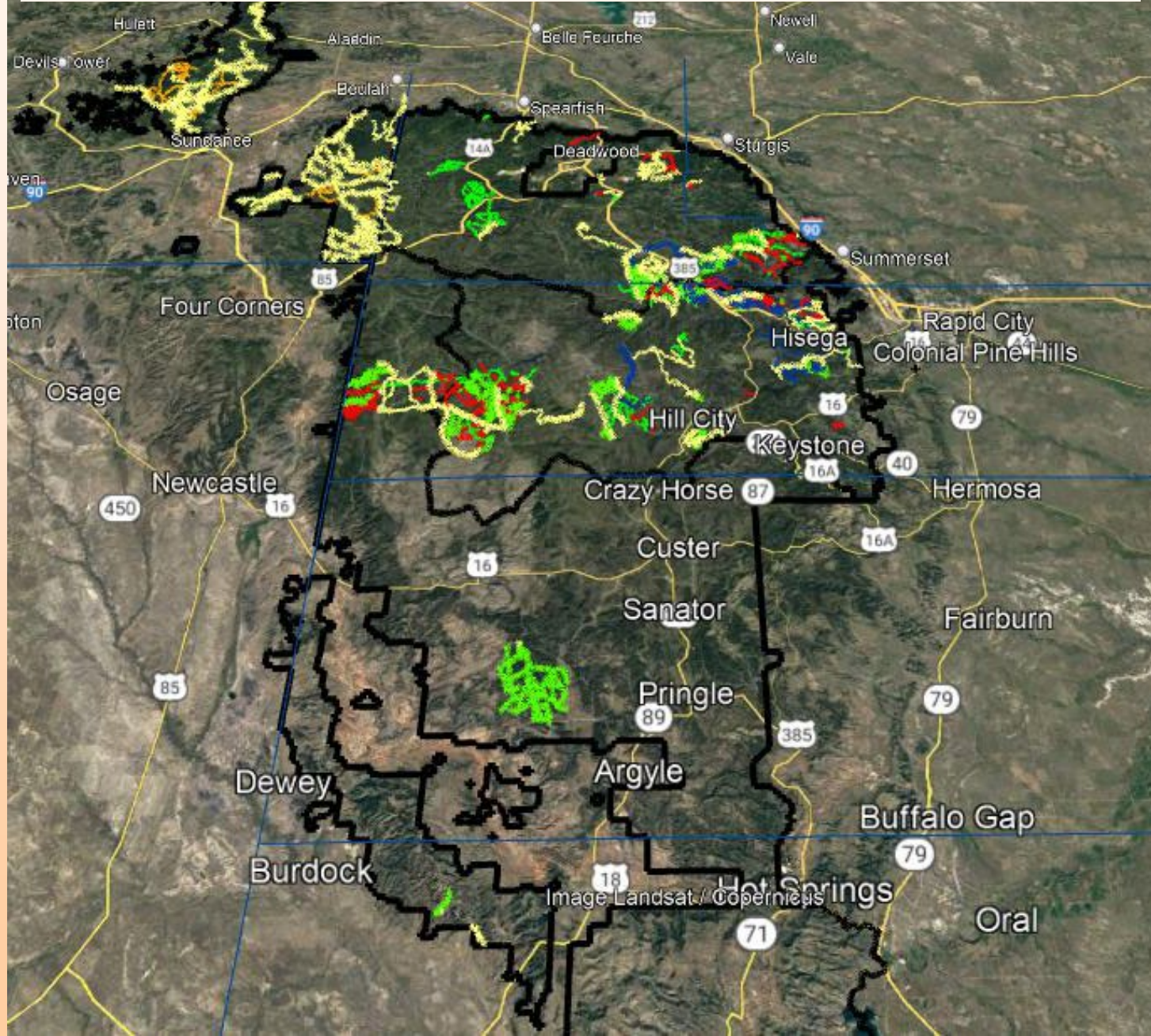
- **Forest Supervisor Requests Approval (Oct '24)**
- **Regional Forester Approval (Oct '24)**
- **Implement Fee Proposal, Fee Changes (Jan '25)**

-Questions?

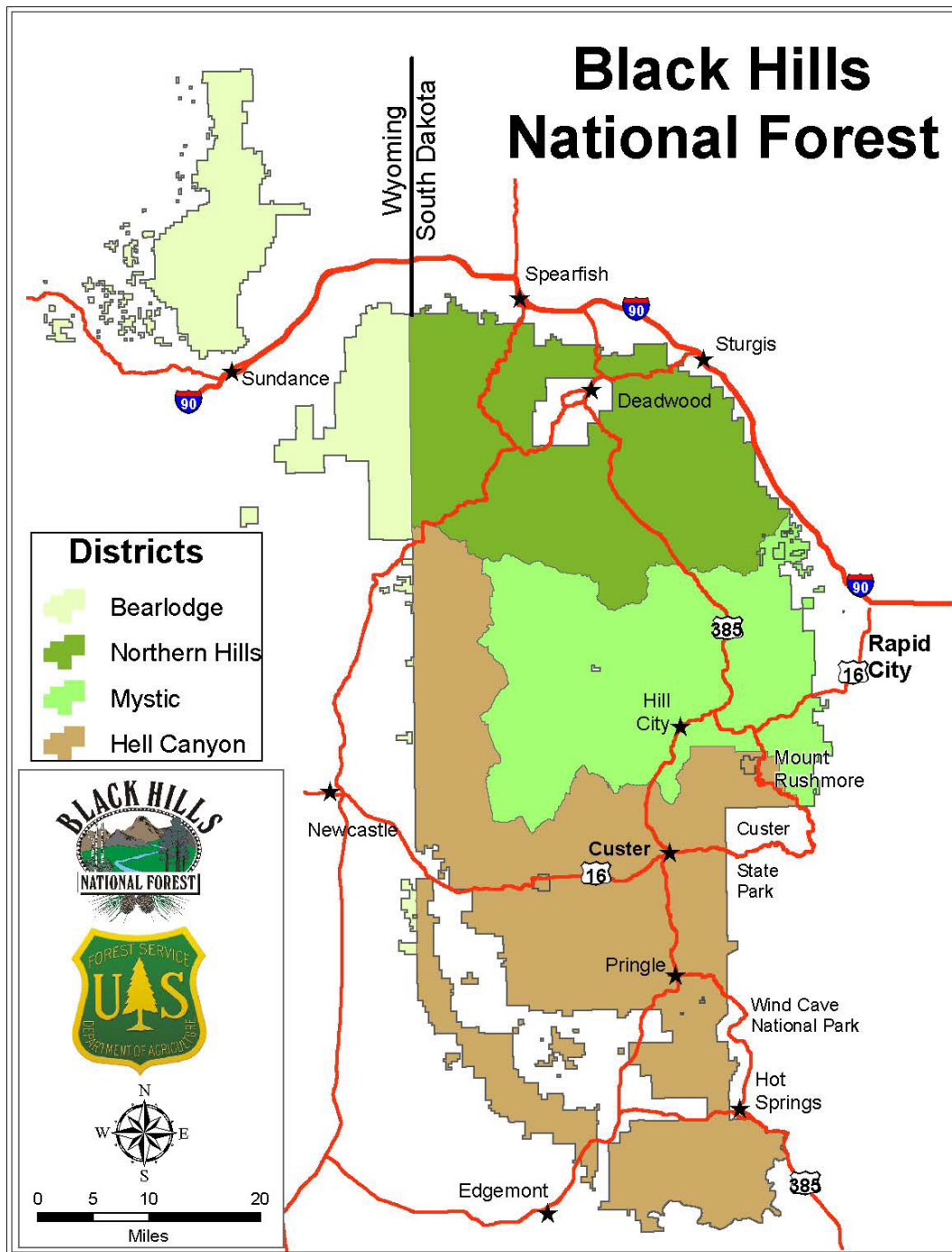
-Discussion



Motorized Trails & Roads Open to All

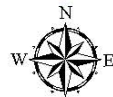


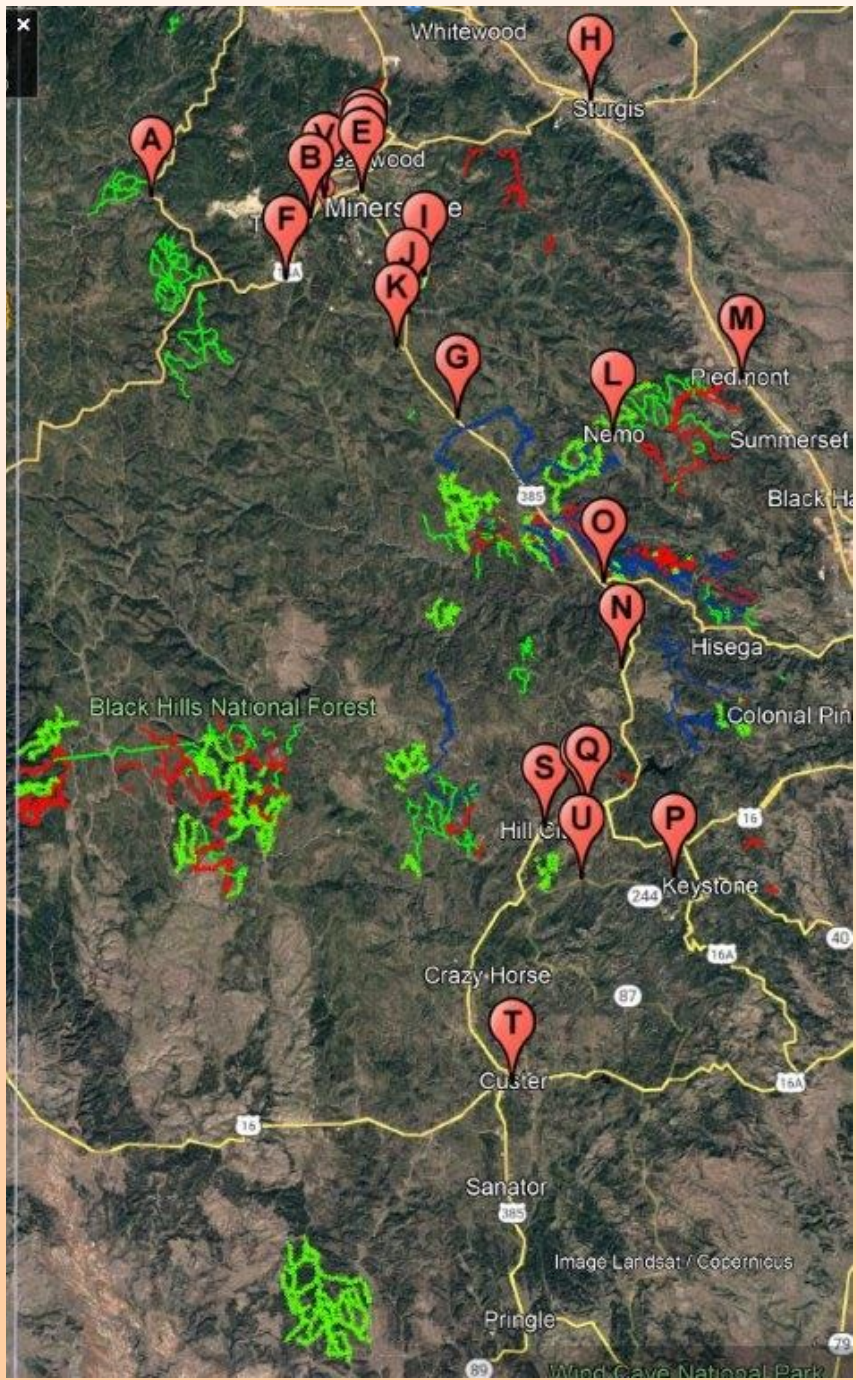
Black Hills National Forest



Districts

-  Bearlodge
-  Northern Hills
-  Mystic
-  Hell Canyon





Current Work Items

- Process for addressing dead end routes
- Ongoing/Continued Development of Educational Materials for Public Engagement
- Proposed Permit Fee Change (2024)
 - NFAB is the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee for the Black Hills NF