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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** August 15, 2016

«FirstName» «LastName», «Title»  
«Affiliation»  
«Mailing\_Address»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «Dear»:

I have initiated planning of the Black Hills Resilient Landscapes Project and invite your comments on the proposal. The purpose of the proposed project is to move landscape-level vegetation conditions in the project area toward objectives set by the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended, in order to increase ecosystem resilience to insect infestation and other natural disturbances, contribute to public safety and the local economy, and reduce risk of wildfire to landscapes and communities.

Proposed activities include reduction of hazardous fuels, prescribed burning, enhancement of hardwoods and grasslands, timber harvest, non-commercial thinning, and associated actions. The project area, which includes most of the Black Hills National Forest, consists of the areas designated under Healthy Forests Restoration Act authority at the request of the Governors of South Dakota and Wyoming. The Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board is serving as a formal collaborator on the project.

Further information on the project is attached and is available at <http://tinyurl.com/BHRLProject>. Additional paper copies of this information are available on request.

The Forest is mindful of its government-to-government relationship with American Indian Tribes. I am consulting with your office pursuant to Executive Orders 13007 and 13175, Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Section 106 implementing regulations found at 36 CFR part 800. I invite your comments on the proposed activities and their potential to affect historic, religious, or other culturally significant properties. Our goals with this communication are to 1) receive comment on the proposed undertaking, 2) be made aware of historic, religious, and culturally significant properties that could be affected by ground-disturbing activities, 3) assess the nature of potential effects on the properties, and 4) seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on the properties.

Because the scope of this project incorporates the entire Black Hills National Forest, it will not be possible to determine potential effects under this analysis prior to the signing of a Record of Decision. The Forest currently meets our Section 106 mandates for many of our timber and vegetation management projects through a programmatic agreement (pursuant to 36 CFR part 800.14(b)) executed in November 2012. The Forest anticipates the need to modify that agreement to better accommodate the needs of this new proposal. Those modifications will be completed before the decision is signed. Your office will be invited to participate in the

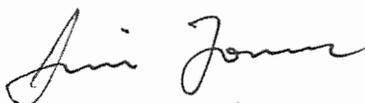


amendment process.

If you have concerns or comments associated with this undertaking, we encourage your early input and participation. Comments may be submitted online by going to <http://tinyurl.com/BHRLProjectComment>. Send written comments to: BHRL Project, Black Hills National Forest, 1019 North 5th Street, Custer, SD 57730, or via facsimile to 605-673-9350, c/o BHRL Project. Written comments also may be hand-delivered to the above address between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mountain time, Monday through Friday except federal holidays. For this stage of the project, comments will be accepted through Sept. 23, 2016.

For further information, contact Rhonda O'Byrne, Project Manager, at 605-642-4622, or Michael Hilton, Tribal Liaison, at 605-673-9200.

Sincerely,



JIM ZORNES  
Acting Forest Supervisor

Encl:

(1) Black Hills Resilient Landscapes Project Description and Request for Comments