
File Code: 1950
Date: September 8, 2017

The Black Hills National Forest has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Black Hills Resilient Landscapes (BHRL) Project. The DEIS is available electronically at <http://tinyurl.com/BHRLProject>. Paper copies are available on request and at Black Hills National Forest offices in Custer, Rapid City, and Spearfish, South Dakota, and Sundance and Newcastle, Wyoming.

Since the initial scoping for this project in 2016, a proposed Forest Plan Amendment has been added to the BHRL project to ensure Forest Plan consistency with Watershed Conservation Practices (WCP) handbook direction (FSH 2509.25 914.2) and to realign conflicting guidelines. The proposed amendment replaces an older, existing Forest Plan guideline with the new language in the WCP handbook. This amendment would not have any significant effects, nor would there be adverse effects related to the substantive requirements found at 36 CFR 219.8 through 219.11.

Specific written comments on the DEIS and substantive formal comments on the programmatic Forest Plan amendment must be submitted either online at <http://tinyurl.com/BHRLProject> or via mail, fax, or hand-delivery to:

BHRL Project
Black Hills National Forest
1019 N. 5th St.
Custer, SD 57730
(605) 673-9350 (fax)

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain time, excluding holidays. Electronic comments may be submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), or hypertext markup language (.html).

Comments must be submitted within 45 days of publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. Publication is expected to occur on Friday, Sept. 15, 2017.

The analysis within the BHRL Project DEIS and the associated programmatic plan amendment will result in two separate decisions, which consequently require two separate but concurrent public comment periods.

Commenting on the Proposal:

Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) on this proposal during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25(a)(4). Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the



proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2).

Commenting on the Plan Amendment:

Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 219.53) who submit substantive formal comments (as defined by 36 CFR 219.62) on the plan amendment will be eligible to file an objection. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection regarding the amendment are defined by 36 CFR 219.54(c). Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 219.16(a)(2). Substantive formal comments are those that are within the scope of the proposal, are specific to the proposal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 219.62).

Whether commenting on the proposal or the plan amendment, it is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action and will be available at the above web address. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the respondent with standing to participate in subsequent administrative or judicial review.

Public meetings will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota on October 5, 2017 at the Mystic Ranger District office, 8221 S. Highway 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m., and in Sundance, Wyoming on October 12, 2017 at the Crook County Courthouse, 309 E. Cleveland St., 6:00-8:00 p.m.

For further information, contact Anne Davy, Project Manager, at (406) 273-1836.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark E. Van Every

MARK E. VAN EVERY

Forest Supervisor