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**March 30 L21078740
OPPORTUNITY TO
COMMENT ON BLACK HILLS
RESILIENT
LANDSCAPES PROJECT**

Responsible official: Mark Van Every, Forest Supervisor
Black Hills National Forest
The USDA Forest Service has issued a draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Black Hills Resilient Landscapes (BHRL) Project. The draft ROD authorizes fuel reduction, prescribed fire, hazard tree treatments, ponderosa pine structural stage modification (thinning, overstory removal, etc.), enhancement of aspen, oak, grasslands, and within-stand diversity, and connected activities such as road construction and improvement. Each of these activities will occur on up to a specified maximum acreage within a defined area, as described in the BHRL Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Combined, all of these defined areas total approximately 676,600 acres. Because each activity will occur on a fraction of its defined area, and because more than one activity will occur in some areas, the total area where activities will actually occur is estimated at 400,900 acres. This includes approximately 298,900 acres of mechanized activities.

The draft ROD also authorizes a programmatic amendment to the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The amendment replaces an out-of-date standard with the updated language found in the Regional Watershed Conservation Practices Handbook. The BHRL Project FEIS and draft ROD are available at <https://tinyurl.com/BHRLProject>. Paper copies are available on request and at all Black Hills National Forest offices.

For additional information concerning the decision, contact Anne Davy, Project Manager, email adavy@fs.fed.us or by phone at (406) 273-1836. For questions on the Forest Service objection process contact Kelly Honors, Forest Environmental Coordinator, at the Forest Supervisor's Office, 1019 North 5th Street, Custer, SD 57730, email khonors@fs.fed.us, or by phone at (605) 673-9200.

The draft decision is subject to predecisional administrative review (objection) pursuant to 36 CFR §218, Subparts A and C, for planned activities, and also pursuant to 36 CFR §219, Subpart B, for the programmatic Forest Plan amendment. Objections, including attachments, must be filed via postal service, hand-delivery, or messenger service to Objection Reviewing Officer, Brian Ferebee, Regional Forester, US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region, 1617 Cole Blvd., Building 17, Golden, CO 80401; via fax to (303) 275-5134; or via email to r02admin_review@fs.fed.us. Business hours for hand-delivery are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, excluding holidays. Electronic appeals must be submitted in a commonly used format (such as .doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt, or .rtf) with subject: BHRL FEIS. Objections, including attachments, must be filed in writing via the means described above with the reviewing officer within 30 days (for the activities implementing the Forest Plan; §218.32) or 60 days (for the Forest Plan amendment; §219.52) of the date of publication of this legal notice. Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted written comments specific to the proposed activities (for §218 objections) or specific to the proposed amendment (for §219 objections) during designated opportunities for public comment on this project. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments unless based on new information arising after designated opportunities for formal comment. The publication date of this legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. Timeliness will be determined by the following indicators: The date of the U.S. Postal Service postmark for an objection received before the close of the fifth business day after the objection filing period; the agency's electronically generated posted date and time for email and facsimiles; the shipping date for delivery by private carrier for an objection received before the close of the fifth business day after the objection filing period; or the official agency date stamp showing receipt of hand delivery. For emailed objections, the sender should receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgment of receipt of the objection, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely filing by other means.

Incorporation of documents by reference is not allowed except as provided by §218.8(b) and §219.54(b).

All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

At a minimum, objections must include the following:

- 1) The objector's name and address, with a telephone number or email address, if available.
- 2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request. A scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection.
- 3) When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector. Verification of the identity of the lead objector must be provided upon request or, in the case of §218 objections, the reviewing officer will designate a lead objector.
- 4) The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the national forest on which the proposed project or amendment will be implemented.
- 5) For §218 objections only, a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer

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to consider. For §219 objections only, a statement of the issues and/or the parts of the plan amendment to which the objection applies.

6) For §218 objections only, a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment. The burden is on the objector to demonstrate compliance with this requirement for objection issues.

7) For §219 objections only, a concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved. If applicable, the objector should identify how the objector believes that the plan amendment is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy; and a statement that demonstrates the link between prior substantive formal comments attributed to the objector and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment.

(Published once at the total approximate cost of \$156.51)