

“Experience the Outdoors Day” Transcript

SOUND:

Rick Hudson (Forest Service):

This is our second annual Experience the Outdoors Day where we host, along with our recreation service partner, FRM – Forest Recreation Management, Inc., (our campground concessionaire), the Forest Service, Custer State Park, Mt. Rushmore, Bureau of Reclamation, and other sponsors around the Black Hills invite adults with disabilities to join us for a day and introduce them to a lot of different outdoor activities. We had about 120 participants this year and all of them had the opportunity to do a variety of activities, or they can just wander the trails and the areas and enjoy the great outdoors.

SOUND:

Brad Winter (Black Hills Workshop):

We brought probably 50 to 75 people with us last year, and when we went and heard about it going on again this year, we really promoted it and we brought probably about 132 people from the Black Hills Workshop in Rapid City. It's just a great event. The people that we support here at the Workshop just love to get out. They love to go fishing. The gold panning, story telling, and the wagon rides are all favorites of everybody. It's been really cool to be able to come here and see that there is wheelchair accessibility at the picnic tables and some of the restrooms, and just all the help that we have from the Park Service and Forest Service that come and push people and walk with people up to all the different events.

SOUND:

Rick Hudson (Forest Service):

Horsethief Lake Recreation Area... we spent a lot of time and money and effort in making this facility as accessible as it can be with walkways and boardwalks and fishing access to the lake, and campsites. It's a great opportunity for ourselves, the engineers, and the architects to see the facility use and see how the fruits of our labor as far as

accessibility goes actually translates into a good experience in accessibility for those folks that need these types of facilities to access the outdoors.

SOUND:

Ty Garcia (Forest Recreation Management):

Most of the people that are here today don't get the opportunity to come out here and do this. They don't get to go camping, have the days out on the lake, go fishing, and things like that. We thought it would be nice to attempt to give something back to the community, and it has given us I think even more than what we give them. The appreciation and the excitement in the faces that you see all around are just so heartwarming.