

## Vehicle Security

Long-term parking is available at many of the trailheads as shown on the reverse of this brochure. If you plan to leave your vehicle overnight or longer in Fort Meade Recreation Area, Bear Butte State Park, or Wind Cave National Park, please notify a ranger. Doing this will let park managers know why a vehicle has been left at a trailhead.



## Campfires

Open fires are not permitted. An "open fire" is defined as any fire burning slash, brush, grass, stubble, debris, rubbish, or other inflammable material not enclosed in a stove, spark-proof incinerator, or an established fireplace approved or constructed by public agencies in designated recreation areas. Campfire grates are provided in many campgrounds for campground users.

**Please be careful with fire.**



## Trail Ethics

The Centennial Trail has been developed for you to enjoy. Please help us keep the Trail clear of trash by packing out all of your litter and food residue. When camping, use minimum impact techniques and practice Leave No Trace ethics. If using a motorized vehicle on the Trail where permitted, TREAD LIGHTLY and protect the environment you enjoy. When meeting other parties on the Trail, allow room to pass. Horse riders will require extra space. Bikes yield to hikers; hikers yield to horses.



## Feedback

We need your comments on your Centennial Trail experience. Did you find the trail signing adequate? Were the facilities along the Trail adequate? Were you able to find enough information to plan your trip? Please send any comments you may have to the supervisor of any agency listed on this brochure.

## Trail Maps

This Trail is shown in detail on two different Trails Illustrated maps which are available for approximately \$9.95\*. The Black Hills National Forest visitor map can be purchased from any of the agencies listed for approximately \$7.49\*. This map provides information about road access to the trailheads. \*Prices are subject to change.

**TREAD LIGHTLY!**  
ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND

## Agency Addresses and Phone Numbers



**Bear Butte State Park**  
PO Box 688  
Sturgis, SD 57785  
(605) 347-5240

[www.sdgfp.info/parks/Regions/NorthernHills/BearButte.htm](http://www.sdgfp.info/parks/Regions/NorthernHills/BearButte.htm)



**Bureau of Land Management**  
310 Roundup St.  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717  
(605) 892-7000

[www.mt.blm.gov/sdfo/ftmeade/ftmeade.html](http://www.mt.blm.gov/sdfo/ftmeade/ftmeade.html)



**Black Hills National Forest**  
1019 N. 5th St.  
Custer, SD 57730  
(605) 673-9200  
TDD (605) 673-9227

[www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills)

Hell Canyon Ranger District  
330 Mt. Rushmore Road  
Custer, SD 57730  
(605) 673-4853

Mystic Ranger District  
8221 S. Hwy 16  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
(605) 343-1567

Northern Hills Ranger District  
2014 N. Main St.  
Spearfish, SD 57783  
(605) 642-4622



**Custer State Park**  
13329 U.S. Highway 16A  
Custer, SD 57730  
(605) 255-4515

[www.custerstatepark.info](http://www.custerstatepark.info)



**Wind Cave National Park**  
26611 U.S. Highway 385  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
(605) 745-4600

[www.nps.gov/wica/](http://www.nps.gov/wica/)

*These agencies are equal opportunity employers and providers.*

# CENTENNIAL TRAIL



*In the Black Hills of South Dakota*



## Introduction

Marking the 100th anniversary of statehood, 1889 to 1989, the 111-mile Centennial Trail represents the diversity of South Dakota. The Trail crosses the prairie grasslands near Bear Butte State Park and climbs into the Black Hills high country, skirting lakes and streams until it reaches Wind Cave National Park near Hot Springs. The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks have combined their efforts to develop this Trail for you to enjoy.

## Allowed Trail Uses By Management Agency

	Hiking	Horseshiding	Mountain Biking	Motorized Vehicles
Bear Butte State Park	Yes	Yes**	Yes**	No
Ft. Meade Recreation Area Bureau of Land Mgmt.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Black Hills National Forest	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*
Black Elk Wilderness	Yes	Yes	No	No
Custer State Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Wind Cave National Park	Yes	No	No	No

\*Motorized use of the Centennial Trail is allowed only on some portions of the Trail between Pilot Knob Trailhead and Dalton Trailhead. Use alternate routes as signed.

\*\*Horse and mountain bike use is not allowed in the eastern portion of Bear Butte State Park. Along the Trail several short stretches are designated for hiker use only. Bypass routes are signed for other trail user types.



## Trip Planning

Planning will help you enjoy your trip on the Centennial Trail. Find out as much as you can about the area where you plan to use the Trail. Drinking water is not readily available along the Trail. Many of the streams dry up in early summer. Protect yourself and treat raw water taken from streams and lakes before you drink it. Many of the established campgrounds and picnic areas along the Trail have drinking water during the summer months of June, July, and August. During the rest of the year, campground water systems are turned off. Be prepared for unexpected changes in the weather, and for emergencies. Food is not readily available along the Trail. Food may be obtained from stores in the Black Hills area.



## Permits, Fees, and Camping

Many of the campgrounds along the Trail charge a fee. Some campgrounds also require a reservation ahead of time. The facility list on the reverse of this brochure indicates which facilities require a use fee and reservation.

**Black Elk Wilderness** portion of the Trail requires free registration for anyone using the Wilderness. This registration form describes the rules and regulations of the Black Elk Wilderness and are available at Wilderness Trailheads. Bicycles are not allowed in the Wilderness.

**Custer State Park** requires the purchase of a park entrance license for vehicles to use the Park. Annual and temporary permits are available. No permit is required to hike or bike through Custer State Park. Within Custer State Park, camping is only allowed in developed campgrounds, except in the French Creek Natural Area where camping is allowed anywhere along the trail.

**Wind Cave National Park** requires a free backcountry permit for those who plan to camp in the backcountry. This permit describes requirements which must be followed when camping in the backcountry of Wind Cave National Park. Permits are available at Wind Cave National Park trailheads. Bicycles are not allowed off designated roads.

# TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

**Bear Butte** - Centennial Trail begins in the north at the top of Bear Butte. At 4,422 feet, Bear Butte is a sacred place for the American Indian. The butte is a laccolith formed by a molten magma intrusion that has been exposed by erosion of the surrounding prairie lands.



View of Bear Butte



Bighorn sheep

**Wildlife** - The Black Hills area provides habitat for many wildlife species. You might see antelope, bighorn sheep, mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, turkeys, or mountain goats. There are about 370 miles of trout fishery streams in the Black Hills. The Centennial Trail crosses a number of these streams.

**Lakes and Reservoirs** - The Centennial Trail passes by or near seven bodies of water, each with its own special character. Sheridan Lake and Pactola Reservoir are popular recreation spots for boating, fishing and swimming. Trout fishing is especially popular. Most lakes are stocked with fish by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.



Legion Lake

**Geology** - Black Hills geology is very complex. The Hills were formed by the uplifting of the earth's crust millions of years ago. Precambrian rock formations, consisting of slate, schist and granite, form a central core. Harney Peak at 7,242 feet and the nearby Needles are part of this core. Surrounding the central core are rings of sedimentary rocks consisting of sandstone, limestone, and shale in which occur many well-known caves, such as Wind Cave and Jewel Cave.



Black Hills rock formations

**Mt. Rushmore** - The Centennial Trail passes within one mile of Mt. Rushmore National Memorial. Mt. Rushmore serves as the Shrine of Democracy with sixty-foot likenesses of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Lincoln carved into the granite.



Mt. Rushmore



Buffalo shedding its winter coat

**History** - The Black Hills are rich in both American Indian and early American history. Archeological evidence suggests American Indian use of the area began about 10,000 years ago. The first expedition to explore the Black Hills was Custer's Expedition in 1874, two years before his death at the Little Big Horn in Montana. The Centennial Trail passes many historical sites.

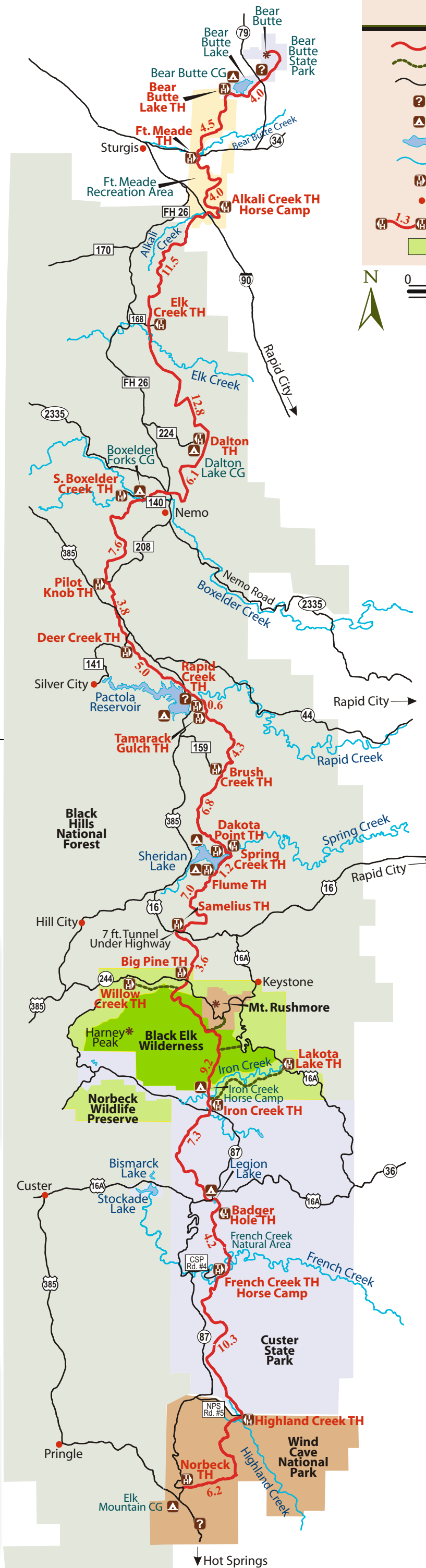


Custer and his officers

# CENTENNIAL TRAIL

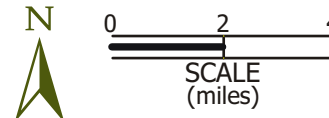


The Centennial Trail number "89" got its number from the date of South Dakota's statehood, 1889.



## LEGEND

	Centennial Trail		Federal Highway
	Connector Trail		State Highway
	Road/Highway		Interstate Highway
	Visitor Information		Forest Road
	Campground (CG)		County Road
	Lake/Reservoir		State Park
	Stream/Creek		National Memorial/Park
	Trailhead (TH)		BLM Land
	City/Town		Wilderness
	Distance Between Trailheads (Miles)		Norbeck Wildlife Preserve
	Norbeck Wildlife Preserve		National Forest



## Facility

Facility	Agency	Camping Fee Site	Trailhead Day Parking	Trailhead Night Parking	Tent Camping	Horse Camping	RV Camping	Campfire Grates	Restrooms	Portable Water	Information	Swimming	Picnicking	Fishing	Open Season
Bear Butte Visitor Center	B BSP	X	X					X	X	X	X	X			5/01-9/15
Bear Butte CG	B BSP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		All Year
Bear Butte Lake TH	B BSP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		All Year
Fort Meade TH	FMRA	X													
Alkali Creek Horse Camp	FMRA	X		X	X	X	X						X		5/15-9/30
Alkali Creek TH	FMRA	X	X	X	X	X	X						X		5/15-9/30
Elk Creek TH	BHNF	X	X												
Dalton TH	BHNF	X	X											X	
Dalton Lake CG	BHNF	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X		5/20-9/15
Boxelder Forks CG	BHNF	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X		5/20-9/15
South Boxelder Creek TH	BHNF	X	X											X	
Pilot Knob TH	BHNF	X	X												
Deer Creek TH	BHNF	X	X												
Pactola Reservoir Campgrounds	BHNF	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5/20-9/15
Pactola Reservoir Visitor Center	BHNF							X	X	X	X				5/25-9/05
Rapid Creek TH	BHNF	X	X					X						X	
Tamarack Gulch TH	BHNF	X												X	
Brush Creek TH	BHNF	X	X												
Sheridan Lake Campgrounds	BHNF	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5/20-9/15
Dakota Point TH	BHNF	X	X												
Spring Creek TH	BHNF	X	X												
Flume TH	BHNF	X	X												
Samelius TH	BHNF	X	X												
Big Pine TH	BHNF	X	X												
Willow Creek TH	BHNF	X	X												
Mount Rushmore National Memorial	MRNM	X						X	X	X	X				All Year
Iron Creek Horse CG	BHNF	X		X	X	X	X								5/24-9/04
Iron Creek TH	CSP	X	X												
Legion Lake CG	CSP	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5/01-10/01
Badger Hole TH	CSP	X	X												
French Creek Natural Area	CSP	X		X										X	All Year
French Creek Horse Camp	CSP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	5/01-10/01
Highland Creek TH	WCNP	X	X											X	
Norbeck TH	WCNP	X	X												
Wind Cave Visitor Center	WCNP	X						X	X	X	X	X	X		All Year
Elk Mountain CG	WCNP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	All Year

- 1 Recreation vehicle camping pads are available. Water, electric, and sewer hookups are not available.
- 2 Dates shown indicate period of year when facilities such as the water system are in operation. The operation season shown is approximate and may vary a week or two on each end of the season.
- 3 Campgrounds at Sheridan Lake, Pactola Reservoir, Iron Creek Horse Camp provide for both reservation of sites and first come-first served basis. Reservations at these campgrounds can be made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or online at [www.reserveUSA.com](http://www.reserveUSA.com). A portion of Sheridan Lake Campground is for group camping only. Some camping supplies and food is available at the marinas. For camping reservations in Custer State Park call 1-800-710-2267.
- 4 Fees are for overnight use of these facilities.
- 5 The campfire grates are provided for your safety. Open fires are prohibited.
- 6 B BSP - Bear Butte State Park (South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish, & Parks)  
 FMRA - Ft. Meade Recreation Area (Bureau of Land Management)  
 BHNF - Black Hills National Forest (U.S. Forest Service)  
 MRNM - Mount Rushmore National Memorial (National Park Service)  
 CSP - Custer State Park (South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish, & Parks)  
 WCNP - Wind Cave National Park (National Park Service)