

**Black Hills National Forest Travel Management Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

**Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade and Pennington Counties, South Dakota
and Crook and Weston Counties, Wyoming**

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service
Black Hills National Forest

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Abstract: This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) documents the analysis of five alternatives to manage motorized vehicle travel on the Black Hills National Forest (the Forest). This DEIS was prepared following extensive public comment including collaboration with the National Forest Advisory Board, scoping, several open houses, and public meetings and workshops. Alternative A, no action, proposes a continuation of the current condition. Alternative B, the modified proposed action, would develop a motorized recreational system, while considering effects to natural and cultural resources. It would allow public motorized vehicle travel on 4,129 miles of routes, and limited motorized cross-country travel for game retrieval and dispersed camping on 179,000 acres. Alternative C would maximize motorized road and trail use. It would allow motor vehicle travel on 4,353 miles of routes, and limited motorized cross-country travel for game retrieval and dispersed camping on 473,500 acres. Alternative D would provide a smaller motorized transportation system with fewer motorized trails. It would allow public motorized vehicle travel on 3,197 miles of routes and prohibit motorized cross-country travel. Alternative E represents the minimum action required to designate a motorized travel system and comply with the Travel Management Rule. It would allow motorized vehicle travel on 3,776 miles of routes and prohibit motorized cross-country travel. At this time, the Forest Service has not identified a preferred alternative.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions. The submission of timely and specific comments can affect a reviewer's ability to participate in subsequent administrative review or judicial review. 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. 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 reviews.

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Date Comments Must Be Received: May 4, 2009