Bighorn National Forest





Hillside on the Bighorn National Forest

Current Issues

Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark

Application will be made for expanding the Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark boundary. Consulting parties reached consensus on a boundary in December 2008. The process will include an invitation for the Wyoming delegation to comment.

Tongue Allotment Environmental Impact Statement Implementation

In February 2008, permittees appealed the Tongue Ranger District Allotment Management Plan stocking rate decisions. The district ranger and permittees reached an agreement following mediation in spring 2009 in which Tongue District Ranger Clarke McClung agreed to cooperatively monitor and collect data for an additional grazing season. Upon this agreement, the 2008 appeal was dropped. In January 2009, McClung issued new decision implementation letters that prescribed revised grazing capacities for each allotment. The animal unit months (AUMs) each grazing permittee is allowed have been reduced; however, the reduction will be phased in over time. The new permitted AUMs will be 11 percent more than the four-year average of AUMs actually grazed during the 2005-2008 monitoring period.

Headquarters

Forest Supervisor: Bill Bass 2013 Eastside Second Street Sheridan, Wyoming 82801 307-674-2600

Ranger Districts

Medicine Wheel/Paintrock RD

District Ranger: Dave Sisk 604 East Main Street Lovell, Wyoming 82431 307-548-6541

Powder River Ranger District

District Ranger: Mark Booth 1415 Fort Street Buffalo, Wyoming 82834 307-684-7806

Tongue Ranger District

District Ranger: Clarke McClung 2013 Eastside Second Street Sheridan, Wyoming 82801 307-674-2600 Forest Size Total land area is 1,115,161 acres, all within Wyoming.

Number of Employees - Permanent 102 Number of Employees - Seasonal 84

> \$8,242,000 Average Annual Budget

> > Elevations Lowest - 5,500 feet above sea level

Highest - 13,175 feet above sea level

Wilderness Areas Cloud Peak

Wild and Scenic Rivers None

National Scenic or Historic Trails None

> National Recreation Areas None

> > Scenic Byways Bighorn Scenic Byway

Cloud Peak Skyway Medicine Wheel Passage

Outfitter Guides 49 outfitter guides

> Grazing 78 active allotments on 822,337 acres

> > 98 term grazing permits

Forest Management and Timber Timber Volume Sold in fiscal year 2008 – 20,707 ccf

Forest Vegetation Improved in fiscal year 2008 – 591 acres

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Treatments 3,756 acres in fiscal year 2008

> Unique Features or Highlights • The Bighorn National Forest is 80 miles long and 30 miles wide.

• Black Tooth Mountain stands at 13,005 feet.

• The Bighorn River, flowing along the west side of the forest, was first named by American Indians due to the great herds of bighorn sheep at its mouth. Lewis and Clark transferred the name to the mountain range in the early

1800s.

• The forest and river are referred to as Bighorn (single word) while the mountain range itself is referred to as the

Big Horns.

Web Address http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/bighorn/