



Draft Environmental Impact Statement



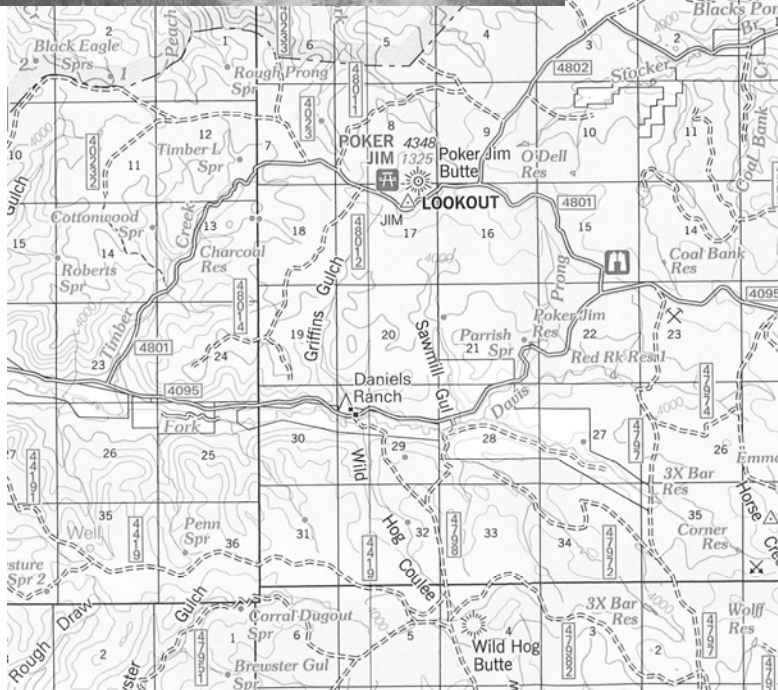
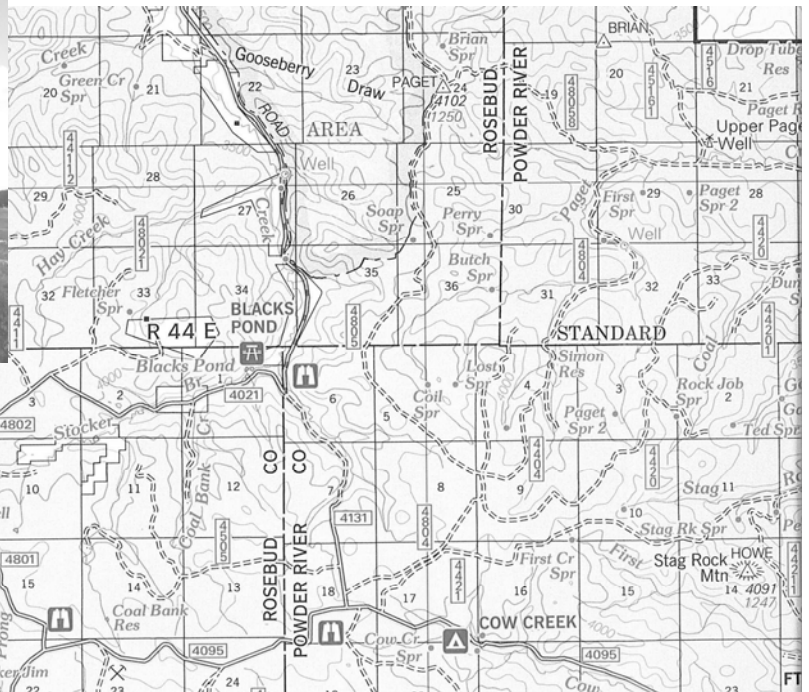
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ashland Travel Management Ashland Ranger District Custer National Forest

Rosebud and Powder River Counties of Montana

September 2008



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**ASHLAND RANGER DISTRICT
TRAVEL MANAGEMENT
Final Environmental Impact Statement**

Custer National Forest - Ashland Ranger District

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Abstract: The Forest Service is proposing to designate routes for public motorized use within the Ashland Ranger District of the Custer National Forest. The new travel management decision would designate system roads and trails for public motorized uses and specify the type of vehicle and season of use for each route. Motorized off-route travel would be prohibited, except where designated for access to dispersed vehicle camping. Over-snow vehicle use is not part of the decision to be made in this analysis. The two action alternatives considered in this draft EIS represent a broad range of public sentiment regarding road and motorized trail management, and frame the significant issues related to the decision to be made. The alternative of taking no action is also considered in this EIS. The preferred alternative is Alternative B.

Reviewers should provide the Forest Service with their comments during the review period of the draft environmental impact statement. This will enable the Forest Service to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decisionmaking process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewers' position and contentions. Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC, 435 U.S. 519, 553 (1978). Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement. City of Angoon v. Hodel (9th Circuit, 1986) and Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 (E.D. Wis. 1980). Comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be specific and should address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed (40 CFR 1503.3).

Written comments must be postmarked by the Postal Service, e-mailed, faxed, or otherwise submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the 45th calendar day following publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. Hand delivered comments must be time and date imprinted at the Custer National Forest Supervisors Office by the close of business on the 45th calendar day following publication of the NOA in the Federal Register.

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