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County Commissioners:

By now most of you are aware that the Black Hills National Forest is in the initial stages of revising our 1997 (2006 Phase II) Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan represents our overarching management plan, and the revision process represents a significant investment by the Forest Service to recognize changed conditions, desired conditions, and management goals. We kicked off the revision pre-assessment phase on 1 October of 2021, which involves the development of 15 assessment reports which establish an informational baseline for the plan revision process.

I am inviting government representatives to an informational webinar on February 1st, 2022, from 10 AM to noon. We will use a virtual platform to support maximum attendance. The purpose of the informational webinar is fourfold:

1. To provide information on Land and Resource Management Plans
2. To provide information on Pre-Assessments and the Forest Plan revision process
3. To provide information on Cooperating Agency agreements for plan revision
4. To provide a forum for questions and answers

Our goal is to improve awareness and understanding of the Forest Plan revision process and help inform government officials on whether you wish to request Cooperating Agency status during the plan revision process. We have heard interest (formally and informally) from some counties with interest in cooperating agency status. We will record the webinar and make it available on our public facing webpage to those unable to attend the live presentation.

A link to the webinar will be sent next week. Following the webinar, I would request a meeting with representatives from each of the 7 counties (Crook and Weston Counties in Wyoming and Fall River, Pennington, Lawrence, Meade and Custer Counties in SD) to discuss interest in and developing the appropriate agreement for cooperating agency status.

Sincerely,

JEFF TOMAC
Forest Supervisor

cc: Kate Barlow, Allen Cambon, Mark Haugen, James Selchert, Adam Kaemingk, Katie Murray, Jackie King, Jordan Fischer, Christy McKenzie

