



Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition

P.O. Box 9496 • Rapid City, SD 57709 • 605-341-0875 • Fax 605-341-8651 March 1, 2022

MS. BRENDA MCGRUDER
LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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DEADWOOD, SD 57732-0678

Thank you for your support of the Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition (Coalition), and our efforts to promote sustainable multiple use ethics in the Black Hills.

In 2021, the BHRMUC continued its commitment to addressing issues related to multiple use and management in the Black Hills. As always, the Coalition took its cues from members in outlining priority topics and agenda items for meetings. Some key issues from 2021 included: off-highway vehicle use and trail maintenance, forest plan revision, grazing on public lands, and issues regarding forest management.

This past year saw continued attention to the timber sale and vegetation management programs on the Black Hills National Forest. This has become a critical issue for the Coalition and we were saddened by the closure of Rushmore Forest Products in Hill City. Members of the Coalition continue to track this issue and interact with Forest Service officials in hopes of staving off future closures – which are approaching on the horizon without a change in course from the Black Hills National Forest. One of the greatest concerns of the Coalition and others is that we will lose our ability to care for the forest without a forest products industry and will undoubtedly see the forest succumb to insects and wildfires. We are continuing to have conversations with local Forest Service and other officials and will be periodically inviting staff to our meetings discuss the issue.

OHV use in the Black Hills continues to be an issue for the Coalition and its members. We have been working to promote responsible OHV use while addressing irresponsible OHV use around the Black Hills region. We continue working with our member OHV organizations, local businesses, counties, and land management agencies, and have been pleased to recently learn the Forest Service is moving forward with creating a staffing structure that may hold some optimism for getting our collective arms around this.

In the background of these discussions, the Black Hills National Forest has begun the revision process for the Forest Plan. Forest Plans guide actions and restrictions on national forests and are long-lived products – 20+ years is common. It is critical the Forest Service approach this revision process with the vision of utilizing actions – many that have taken place for over 100 years in the Black Hills, to keep the forest green and provide for all the multiple uses in our lives for recreation, livelihoods, and personal connections to the resources. The Coalition played a central role in the previous plan revision process and we will be working to bring important concepts to the Forest Service in support of multiple uses.

Your personal and financial commitments to our campaign for multiple use management in and around the Black Hills are crucial. We hope you will continue your support in 2022.

As always, feel free to call, anytime with any discussion or questions.

Sincerely,

Ben Wudtke
Executive Secretary
605-341-0875