



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Badlands National Park
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Interior, SD 57750

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Badlands National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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Badlands Seeking Comments on Hwy 240 Road Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment

Interior, SD – The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, is proposing to rehabilitate two road sections of Loop Road to address structural, drainage, and accessibility issues – the Dillon Pass section from mile post (MP) 24.9 to MP 25 and the Bigfoot section, starting west of Bigfoot Picnic Area on Loop Road, for 1.19 miles to an area by Bigfoot Road. Together, the Dillon Pass and Bigfoot sections encompass 1.2 miles of the 32-mile Loop Road.

The purpose of this project is to provide a stable and more sustainable roadway to ensure the safety of visitors and to minimize impacts to park resources. Creating a more sustainable roadway would: 1) improve drainage and stabilize existing slopes; 2) ensure safe sight distances for turnouts for vehicles and bicycles; 3) improve accessibility and reduce tripping hazards on walkways; 4) maximize the use of the roadway prism to include paved ditches and/or pullouts; and 5) minimize the need for future park maintenance.

The project would involve repair work including: 1) the removal of an abandoned culvert and backfilled concrete under roadway; 2) reestablishing a compacted buttress that covers any downspout culverts to termination points; 3) building a culvert inlet headwall; 4) unplugging the culvert; 5) addressing culvert downspout burial; 6) fixing calving roadside supports and buttress; and 7) completing revegetation efforts on all new construction and disturbed areas on both north and south sides of the Loop Road.

The project would also address an area of Loop Road west of the Bigfoot Picnic Area that has become incredibly rough for park visitor vehicular traffic on the Loop Road, for 1.19 miles to an area by Bigfoot Road. The work would consist of milling the old roadway asphalt, re-utilizing the asphalt millings by compacting the material into a solid base layer, and then overlaying 1.19 miles with asphalt hot mix. This portion of the project would also address drainage and visitor accessibility issues at the Bigfoot Picnic Area.

You can learn about the project by reading our **Environmental Assessment (EA)** or **attending one of the Open Houses**. The EA can be found at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/badl>. Hard copies of the EA are available for review at the park's visitor centers. After you have completed the review of the EA, we encourage your comments about the proposed project to inform how to move forward. Comment during the 30-day public

review period from July 13, 2018 to August 13, 2018.

Park staff will be available to answer questions at the two Open Houses at the times and locations listed below. A short presentation about the project will occur from 6:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Interior Fire Station – Interior, SD

July 31, 2018

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Across from the Cowboy Corner on Hwy 44

Wall Community Center – Wall, SD

August 1, 2018

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

501 Main Street

There are three ways to submit your comments:

- Provide written comments at one of the Open Houses
- Online through the **Planning, Environment & Public Comment webpage** for the *2018 Rehabilitation of Loop Road at Dillon Pass and Bigfoot EA* (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/badl>)
- By mail for letters postmarked by August 13, 2018:

Attn: Superintendent

Ben Reifel Visitor Center

25216 Ben Reifel Road

Interior, SD 57750

Engaging with you is a critical part of our planning process. Before including a personal address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in written comments, anyone providing written comment should be aware their entire comment – including their personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While anyone wishing to comment may ask the NPS in their comment to withhold their personal identifying information from public review, the NPS cannot guarantee it will be able to do so.

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for more than 400 parks in the National Park System and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.