



# United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service  
Badlands National Park  
25216 Ben Reifel Rd  
Interior, SD 57750



IN REPLY REFER TO:

1A2(BADL)

July 13, 2018

Dear Park Friends,

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, has prepared the *Badlands National Park Rehabilitation of Loop Road at Dillon Pass and Bigfoot Environmental Assessment* (BADL EA). 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 BADL EA describes one action alternative and the no-action alternative, as well as the environmental consequences of implementing each alternative.

Under the no-action alternative, the NPS would continue management actions that would include minimum rehabilitation of the Parkway to maintain its existing condition and character. Alternative B would include proposed repair work at mile post (MP) 24.9 to MP 25 for the following actions: 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 at MP 24.9; 4) unplugging the culvert at MP 25; 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. Therefore, the EA also analyzes proposed repair work that would start west of Bigfoot Picnic Area at approximately MP 12.8 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.

The BADL EA will be available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days beginning July 13, 2018 and concluding August 13, 2018. Please go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/badl> to view the EA and submit comments electronically. Hard copies of the EA are available for review at the park's visitor centers. You are also welcome to mail comments directly to:

Attn: Superintendent  
Badlands National Park  
25216 Ben Reifel Rd  
Interior, SD 57750

*Please postmark your comments by August 13, 2018 for consideration.*

We also encourage your attendance at an Open House to learn about the latest details of the project, the contents of the EA, and to ask questions and share comments. There will be two opportunities for you to attend an Open House:

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

A brief project presentation will be given from 6:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at each Open House.

If you have questions about the project or would like more information, please contact me by email at [mike\\_pflaum@nps.gov](mailto:mike_pflaum@nps.gov) or by phone at 605-433-5280.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Pflaum  
Park Superintendent  
Badlands National Park