



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Keystone, South Dakota

APPENDIX
Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
Environmental Assessment
December 2008

APPENDIX A

Cost Comparison of Alternatives

COST COMPARISON of ALTERNATIVES

As of 9/18/08

Design Element	<u>No Action</u>		<u>Single Loop</u>		<u>Multi-Loop</u>	
	Units	Cost	Unit	Cost	Unit	Cost
Length ¹ (miles)	1.6	\$101,376	6.64	\$420,710	9.74	\$617,126
Trailhead	1	\$40,000	4	\$160,000	6	\$240,000
Horse Bridge	1	\$15,000	1	\$15,000	1	\$15,000
Horse Comfort Station	1	\$5,000	1	\$5,000	1	\$5,000
Foot Bridge	2	\$26,240	4	\$52,480	4	\$52,480
Road crossing	0	\$0	3	\$150,000	4	\$200,000
Drainage Structures	40	\$4,000	60	\$6,000	80	\$8,000
Parking Lots	0		0		4	\$96,000
Retaining Wall	1	\$52,500	1	\$52,500	1	\$52,500
		<u>\$244,116</u>		<u>\$861,690</u>		<u>\$1,286,106</u>

1 - 0.6 mile President's trail not included in this estimate.

<u>Design Element</u>	<u>Unit Costs</u>	<u>Description</u>
Trail construction/clearing	\$12.00	per linear foot (alignment (\$8.00) and treadway (\$4.00), materials and labor (CESS/RMNP)
Trailhead (Amenities)	\$40,000	includes Wayside Exhibits, Trail Kiosk/signage, vaulted toilet and bike rack (see units below) Wayside Exhibits (\$7,000 ea) NPS - Harper's Ferry Trail kiosk/signage \$15,000 (materials, labor, day use structures) (NPS-CESS + contingencies) Vaulted Toilets \$10,000 each (GSA, CXT Pre-cast concrete products) Bike Racks \$3,800 each (NPS - CESS)
Retaining Wall	\$52,500	\$140/sf (estimating 375 sf) NPS (CESS) and Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP)
Horse Bridge	\$15,000	unit cost per USFS, plus contingency
Horse Comfort Station	\$5,000	estimate only
Foot Bridge	\$13,120	\$82/sf (20' x 8') RMNP
Road Crossing	\$50,000	rough estimate only - no design completed and requires DOT approval
Drainage Structures	\$100	waterbars, logbars, rock checks (US Forest Service (USFS)& RMNP)
Parking Lots	\$24,000	\$2.00/sf (12,000 sf each parking lot area) NPS - CESS plus contingency

APPENDIX B

Agency Responses

Open House Attendance Record

Open House Comments

PEPC Comments



REPLY REFER TO:
L76 (MORU)

United States Department of the Interior

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2008

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Building 31, Suite 1 13000 Highway 244
Keystone, South Dakota 57751
(605) 574-2523 FAX (605) 574-2307

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES,
WASTE MANAGEMENT

March 6, 2008

Ms. Vonnie Kallemeyn
South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Waste Management Program
523 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-3181

Dear Ms. Kallemeyn:

On behalf of the National Park Service and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, we are asking your agency to provide comments concerning potential environmental impacts from construction of a proposed trail system and access route within the boundary of the Memorial, described below. (See Map 1). The projects will require the preparation of Environmental Assessments in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Yellow Wolf Trail System

The proposed trail system would include a core loop system around Mount Rushmore, with scenic vistas, spur trails and interpretive stops along the route. The trail will be 6-10 miles in length, approximately 3 miles currently exists with additional miles to be developed. It is proposed for foot traffic only. It would link with other existing trails, including the Centennial Trail, and potentially to the proposed Mickelson Trail Extension. The proposed trail would provide an opportunity for education and experiencing the natural, cultural and historical resources of the Memorial. (See Map 2).

Grand Staircase Access Route

The purpose of this Environmental Assessment is to determine the appropriateness of access to these areas via the unimproved route for activities other than security, resource management and preservation requirements. If appropriate, access to the Hall of Records and any other location on Mount Rushmore proper will be authorized only when directly related to park operations. This proposed route would connect the Presidential Trail (a ½ mile trail that winds around the base of the mountain) to the Hall of Records canyon located directly behind the sculpture carved into Mount Rushmore. An unimproved (rough) route already exists for security patrols, access to the sculpture for preservation activities and limited special tours. The length of the existing route is approximately 900 horizontal feet with an elevation gain of approximately 500 feet. (See Map 3).

Background

The Memorial encompasses 1,278 acres and is located in the central Black Hills in southwestern South Dakota. While the land cover of the Memorial is dominated by ponderosa pine forest, it is topographically diverse with steep canyons, cliff faces and rocky outcroppings. Three drainages are located within the Memorial property boundaries: Lafferty Gulch in the north central area, Starling Basin along the western and southern edges, and Grizzly Gulch along the eastern side. The memorial contains two wetland areas, Starling Basin and Lafferty Gulch.

Waste Management Determination Hazardous Waste/Solid Waste/Asbestos

It appears, based on the information provided, that this project will have little or no impact on the waste management in this area.

Approved By: Vonnie Kallemeyn
Date: 3-12-08

South Dakota Department of
Environment & Natural Resources
Phone: (605) 773-3153 Fax: (605) 773-6035

All wastes generated during this project must be disposed of in a permitted solid waste facility. UK

Currently, the majority of visitation to the Memorial is for the purposes of seeing the carved mountain and associated visitor facilities. A very small amount of rock climbing, nature observation and hiking occur in the park. Some horse trails exist on the Blackberry Trail system that connects to the Centennial Trail, a larger trail system within the surrounding Black Hills National Forest. The Black Elk Wilderness lies immediately south of the park. The town of Keystone is located on the east boundary of the park. Through partnerships the Memorial would connect to and become an integral part of the neighboring trail systems establishing the Mount Rushmore National Memorial as a destination for trail users throughout the region.

The Memorial has scheduled the following public information meetings:

March 13, 2008

Radisson Hotel, Sheridan/Deerfield Room

445 Mt. Rushmore Road

Rapid City, SD 57702

Identical sessions offered from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

March 20, 2008

Prairie Wind Casino

Highway 18

Pine Ridge, SD

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

A response from you within thirty (30) days would be appreciated. Your responses can be mailed to Native American Environmental, 909 St. Joseph St., #602, Rapid City, SD 57701.

If you need further details about any aspect of the project, please don't hesitate to contact Duane Bubac, Chief of Cultural Resources and Facilities, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, (605) 574-3112. If you have any questions concerning the Environmental Assessment, please contact Cheryl Chapman, Matrix Consulting Group, at (605) 399-2000.

Sincerely,

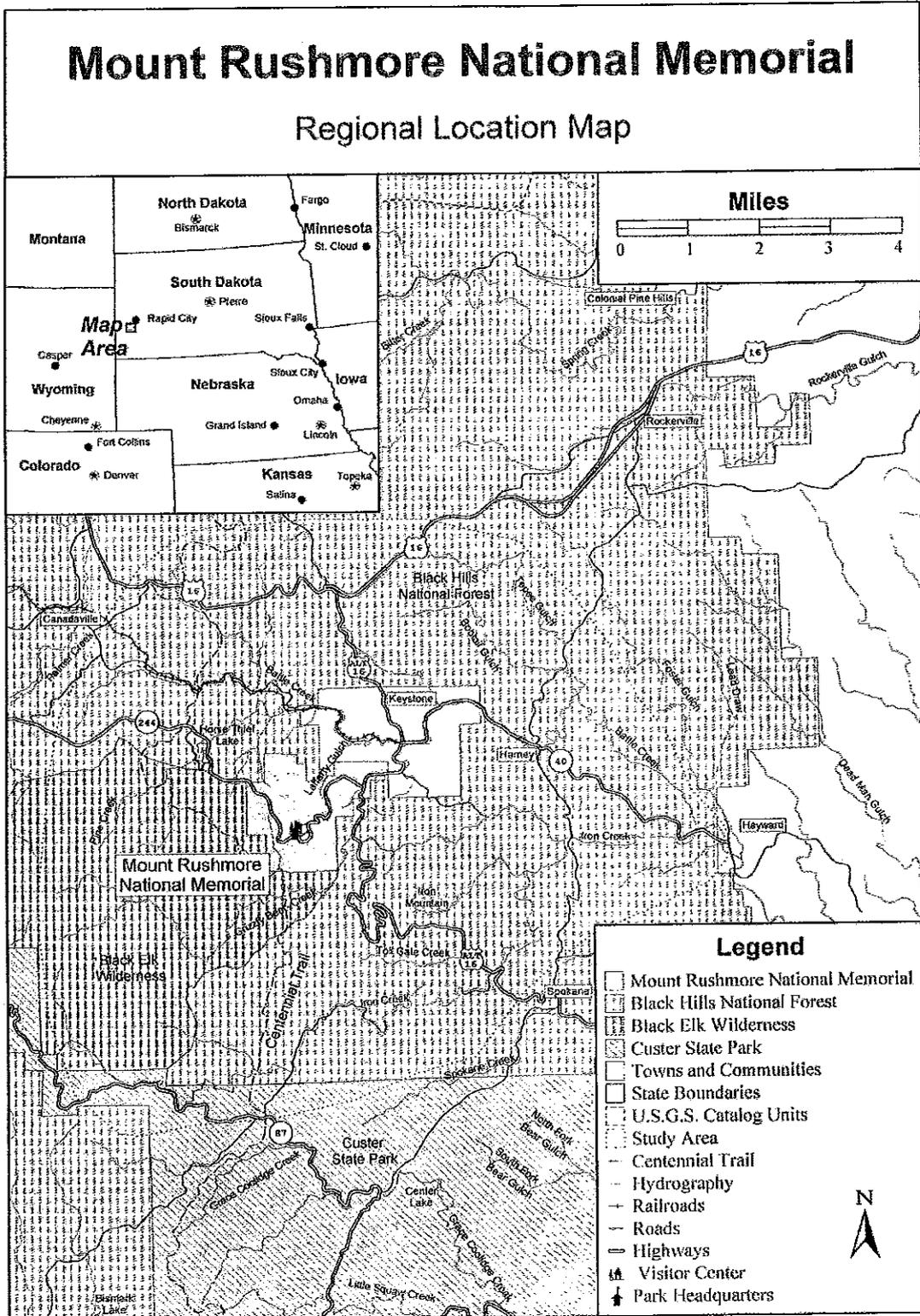


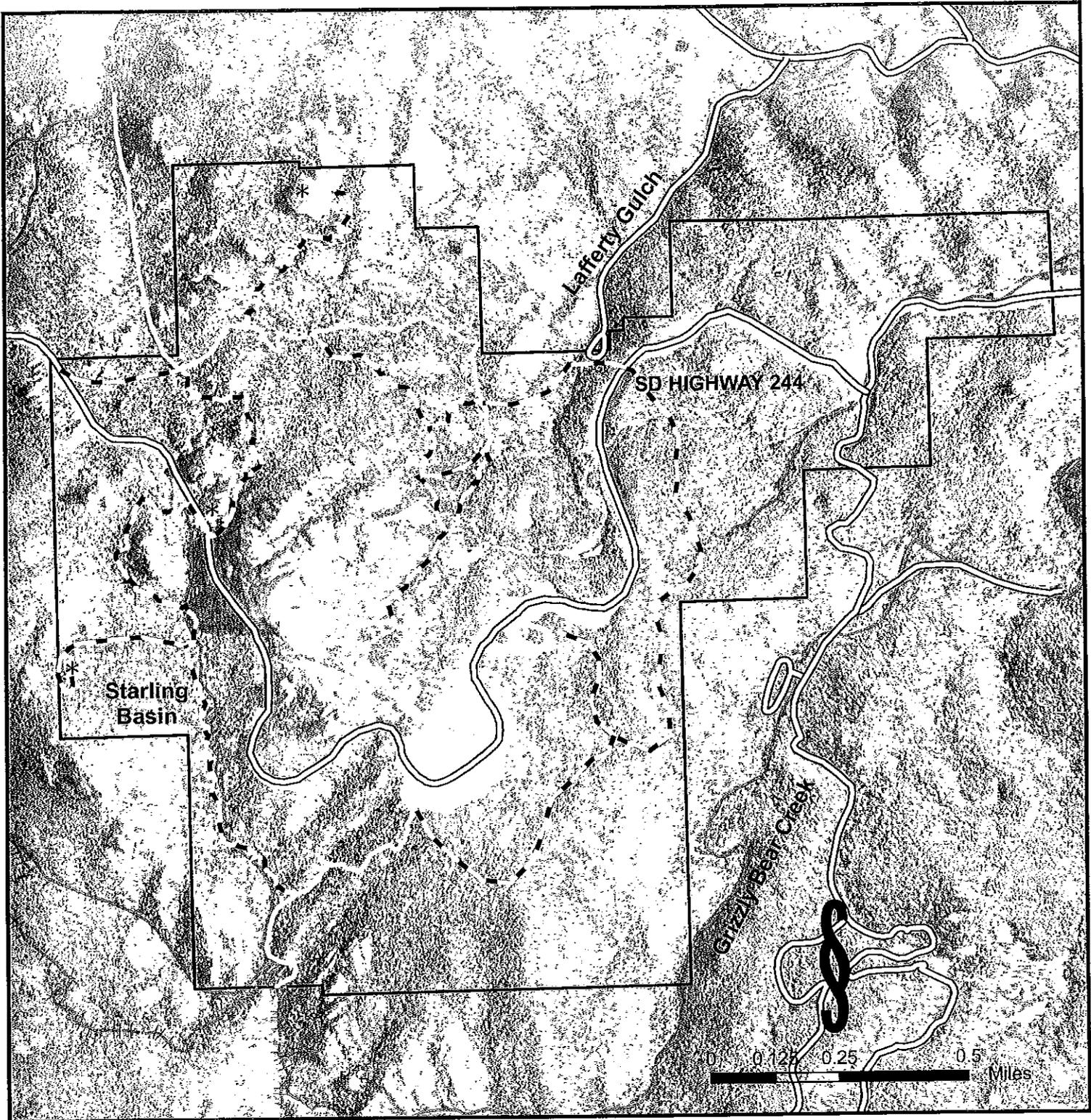
Gerard Baker
Superintendent

Maps

- 1) Mount Rushmore National Memorial Regional Location Map
- 2) Proposed Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
- 3) Proposed Grand Staircase Access Route

MAP 1: Regional Location Map for Mount Rushmore National Memorial (NPS, 2000)



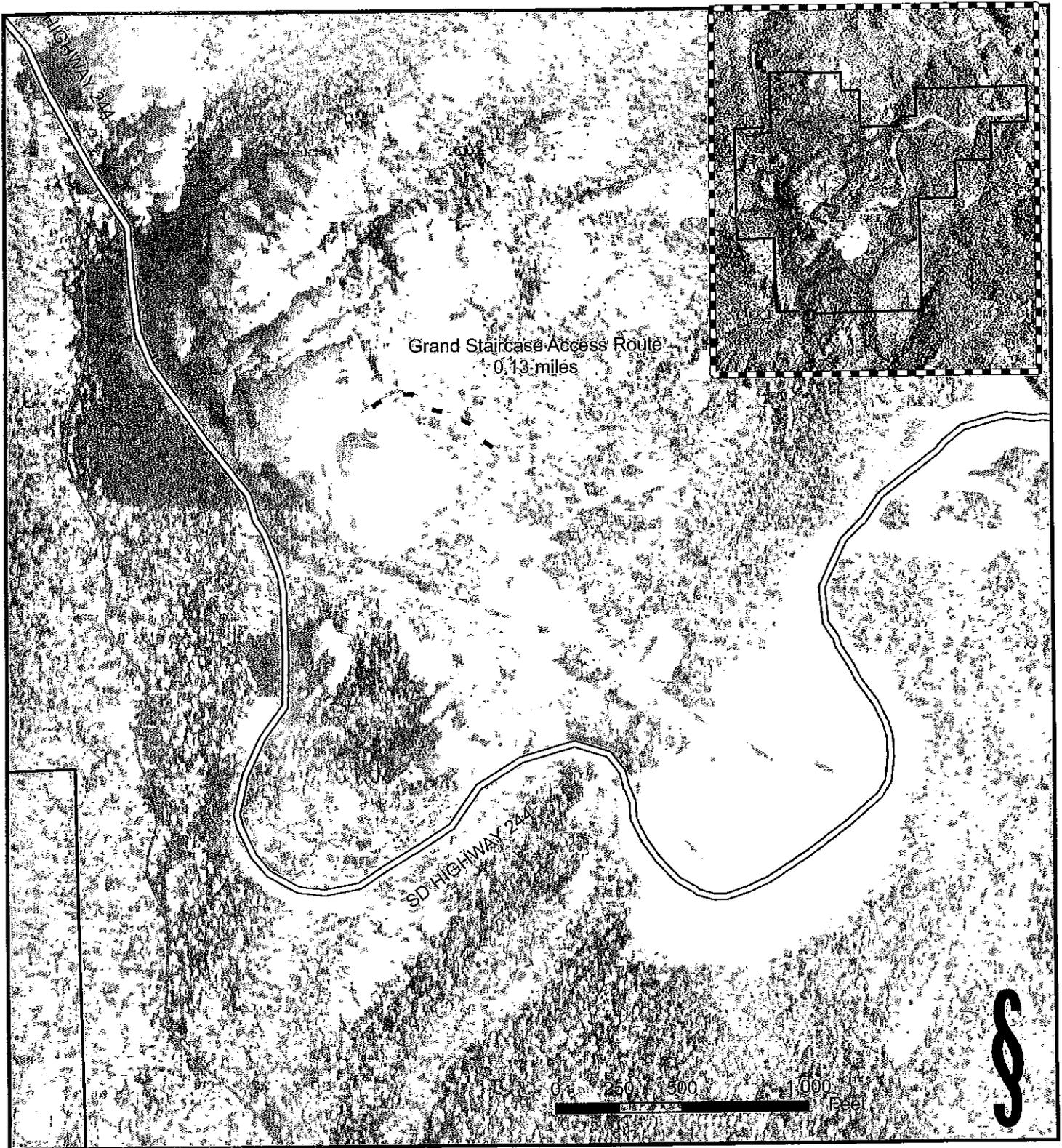


Mount Rushmore National Memorial
 Map 2: Proposed Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
 March 2008

Legend

	Centennial Trail		Proposed Trails
	Roads		Existing Trails
	Scenic Vista		Memorial Boundary
	Nonforested Wetland		
	Streams		





Legend

	Roads		Proposed Route
	Streams		Memorial Boundary

Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Map 3: Grand Staircase Access Route
 March 2008



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MAR 12 2008

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MAR 17 2008

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Building 31, Suite 1 13000 Highway 244
Keystone, South Dakota 57751
(605) 574-2523 FAX (605) 574-2307

AS

REPLY REFER TO:
L76 (MORU)

March 6, 2008

Mr. Pete Gober
Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
420 S. Garfield Ave. Ste 400
Pierre, SD 57501-5408

This constitutes a report of the Department of the Interior prepared in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 651 et seq.). We have reviewed and have NO OBJECTION to this proposed project.

3-13-08
Date

[Signature]
Supervisor

Dear Mr. Gober:

On behalf of the National Park Service and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, we are asking your agency to provide comments concerning potential environmental impacts from construction of a proposed trail system and access route within the boundary of the Memorial, described below. (See Map 1). The projects will require the preparation of Environmental Assessments in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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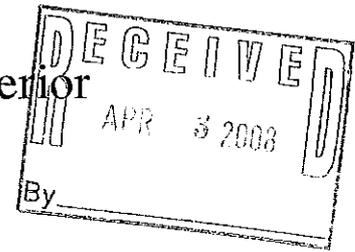
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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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Keystone, South Dakota 57751
(605) 574-2523 FAX (605) 574-2307



REPLY REFER TO:
L76 (MORU)

March 6, 2008

Mr. Brian Gustafson
South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Office of Air Quality
523 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-3181

AIR QUALITY DETERMINATION

It appears, based on the information, that the project will have little or no impact on the air quality in this area. This project is approved.

Approved By: Brian Schultz

Date: 3/18/2008

(605) 773-6038 Fax: (605) 773-5286
South Dakota Department of Environment
And Natural Resources

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MAR 12 2008

AIR QUALITY
PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Gustafson:

On behalf of the National Park Service and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, we are asking your agency to provide comments concerning potential environmental impacts from construction of a proposed trail system and access route within the boundary of the Memorial, described below. (See Map 1). The projects will require the preparation of Environmental Assessments in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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If you need further details about any aspect of the project, please don't hesitate to contact Duane Bubac, Chief of Cultural Resources and Facilities, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, (605) 574-3112. If you have any questions concerning the Environmental Assessment, please contact Cheryl Chapman, Matrix Consulting Group, at (605) 399-2000.

Sincerely,



Gerard Baker
Superintendent

Maps

- 1) Mount Rushmore National Memorial Regional Location Map
- 2) Proposed Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
- 3) Proposed Grand Staircase Access Route

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
200 Fourth Street SW
Huron, South Dakota 57350

Phone: (605) 352-1200
Fax: (605) 352-1270

March 18, 2008

Native American Environmental
909 St. Joseph St. #602
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

RE: Proposed Trail System and Access Route

To Whom It May Concern:

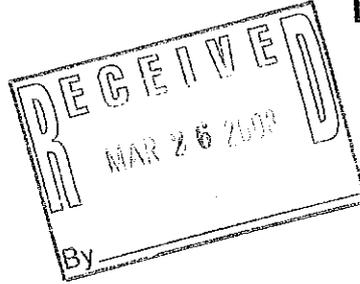
We have reviewed the site map for the above projects for Shannon County, South Dakota. This project will have no affect on prime or important farmlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Schaar".

JEROME M. SCHAAR
State Soil Scientist

cc: Eugene Waterson, DC, NRCS, Rapid City FO



Jessica Eggers

**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

PMB 2020
JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182
www.state.sd.us/denr

March 24, 2008

Gerard Baker
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Building 31, Suite 1 13000 Hwy. 244
Keystone, SD 57751

Re: Proposed Trail System Expansion at Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Pennington County, South Dakota

Dear Mr. Baker:

The Ground Water Quality Program of the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources has reviewed the above-referenced project for potential impacts to ground water quality. Based on the information submitted in your letter to Bill Markley dated March 6, 2008, the department does not anticipate adverse impacts to ground water quality by this project.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact this office at (605) 773-3296. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

John Foster, Hydrologist
Ground Water Quality Program



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
SOUTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
28563 POWERHOUSE ROAD, ROOM 118
PIERRE SD 57501-6174

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

April 2, 2008

South Dakota Regulatory Office
28563 Powerhouse Road, Room 118
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Native American Environmental
909 St. Joseph Street, #602
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

To Whom it May Concern:

Reference is made to the preliminary information received requesting environmental review/comments on the proposed construction of a trail system and access route within the boundary of the Mount Rushmore Monument, Pennington County, South Dakota.

The Corps' jurisdiction is derived from Section 404 of the Clean Water Act passed by Congress in 1972. Section 404 calls for Federal regulation of the discharge of dredged or fill material into certain waterways, lakes and/or wetlands, (i.e. waters of the United States). Should the proposed project involve either the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters subject to Federal regulation, it is requested that you submit an application for a Department of the Army permit.

Regarding your request for comment relative to environmental impacts, this office assesses project impacts and considers numerous other public interest factors consistent with our regulatory authorities, including environmental impacts, after receipt of the detailed, site specific information required via our permit application process.

You can obtain additional information about the Regulatory Program and download forms from our website:
<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rsd/frame.html>

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please feel free to contact this office at the above Regulatory Office address or telephone Carolyn Kutz, of my staff, at (605) 224-8531.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven E. Naylor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Steven E. Naylor
Regulatory Program Manager,
South Dakota

CF: Baker; US Dept. of the Interior, Keystone, SD



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
106 SOUTH 15TH STREET
OMAHA NE 68102-1618

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

March 27, 2008

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Native American Environmental
909 St. Joseph Street #602
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear Native American Environmental:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) has reviewed the letter dated March 6, 2008 regarding the proposed Mount Rushmore trail system additions. The Corps offers the following comments:

It should be ensured that the proposed project is in compliance with flood plain management criteria of Pennington County and the State of South Dakota. As a minimum, the design should ensure that the 100-year flood water surface elevation of any stream affected that has a designated floodway is not increased relative to pre-project conditions. If a designated floodway has not been identified then the design should ensure that the 100-year floodwater surface elevation is not increased by more than one-foot relative to pre-project conditions. It is desirable, however, that water surface elevations either remain the same or decrease as a result of this project.

Your plans should be coordinated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is currently involved in a program to protect ground water resources. If you have not already done so, it is recommended you consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department regarding fish and wildlife resources. In addition, the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office should be contacted for information and recommendations on potential cultural resources in the project area.

If construction activities involve any work in waters of the United States, a Section 404 permit may be required. For a detailed review of permit requirements, preliminary and final project plans should be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Pierre Regulatory Office
Attention: CENWO-OD-R-SD/Naylor
28563 Powerhouse Road, Room 120
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dave Crane of my staff at (402) 995-2676.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Janis, Chief
Environmental, Economics, and
Cultural Resources Section
Planning Branch



April 2, 2008

Gerard Baker
National Park Service
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Building 31, Suite 1, Highway 244
Keystone, SD 57751

Dear Mr. Baker:

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reviewed the Yellow Wolf Trail System and Grand Staircase Access Route Projects and have the following comments.

1. The tributaries and wetlands may be impacted by this project. These water bodies are considered waters of the state and are protected under the South Dakota Surface Water Quality Standards. The discharge of pollutants from any source, including indiscriminate use of fill material, may not cause destruction or impairment except where authorized under Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning this permit.
2. A General Storm Water Permit for Construction Activities may be required. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Splittstoesser at 1-800-SDSTORM (1-800-737-8676).
3. It is recommended that Best Management Practices (BMP) for sediment and erosion control be incorporated into the planning.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

John Miller
Surface Water Quality Program
(605) 773-3351

**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

PMB 2020
JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182
www.state.sd.us/denr

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MAR 12 2008

Drinking Water Program

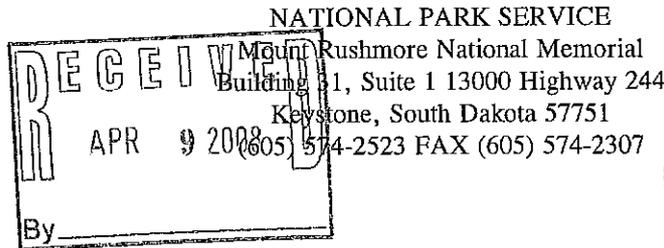
United States Department of the Interior



REPLY REFER TO:
L76 (MORU)

March 6, 2008

Mr. Mark Mayer
South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Office of Drinking Water
523 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-3181



DRINKING WATER QUALITY DETERMINATION:
It appears, based on the information provided,
that this project will not have adverse
environmental effects to drinking water in
this area. This project is approved.

Approved by: *Mark Mayer*
Date: *4/4/08* ID No.: *2008024*
605-773-3754 Fax 605-773-5286
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Dear Mr. Mayer:

On behalf of the National Park Service and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, we are asking your agency to provide comments concerning potential environmental impacts from construction of a proposed trail system and access route within the boundary of the Memorial, described below. (See Map 1). The projects will require the preparation of Environmental Assessments in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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Background

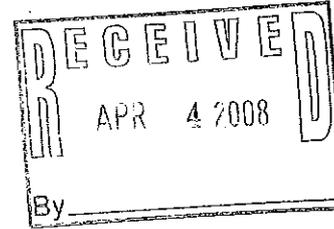
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Jessica

DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182



TO: People interested in South Dakota birds
FROM: Eileen Dowd Stukel, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator *eds*
SUBJECT: South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas
DATE: April 4, 2008
cc: Nancy Drilling, Rosemary Draeger

It has been 20 years since fieldwork for the first South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) began in 1988. By this memo, we are informing you that the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) will spearhead the second South Dakota breeding bird atlas project, beginning this year. The results of South Dakota's first BBA were published in 1995, following six years of fieldwork by 71 volunteers. More than 24,000 records were submitted, representing 219 breeding species. Richard Peterson coordinated the first BBA and conducted much of the fieldwork in this ambitious effort. The resulting resource has been extremely valuable in describing the status and distribution of South Dakota's breeding birds, both game and nongame species.

In the past 20 years, South Dakota's landscape has changed. The second BBA not only will map the current distribution of South Dakota's breeding birds but also aims to document changes in their distributions over the past 20 years. For the second BBA, SDGFP intends to secure partial funding for the project through the State Wildlife Grants program, a federal funding source intended for projects that gather information and conduct on-the-ground activities to help avoid the need for endangered species listings. One of the best ways to maintain species and their habitats is to gather sound biological information that can be used to steer management and recovery efforts. Once secured, State Wildlife Grants funding will provide 50% of the cost of the atlas.

SDGFP will contract the project coordination to the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, located in Fort Collins, Colorado. Nancy Drilling is the project coordinator. Nancy recently completed coordination of South Dakota's first statewide inventory of colonial and semicolonial waterbirds. Nancy is in the process of developing atlas methodology, in coordination with a number of bird experts in the state. This will result in the identification of specific survey sites to be surveyed by paid seasonal staff, agency personnel, and volunteer birders.

This memo serves to inform you about the project, but also to invite your agency or organization to participate at whatever level is appropriate. As I mentioned, State Wildlife Grants funding will provide 50% of the project funds. The remaining 50% must be provided by nonfederal sources, which can include monetary contributions and documented and approved in-kind volunteer hours. Because of the widespread use of this information beyond the needs of SDGFP, we hope we can count on partners to help

offset much of the needed nonfederal match. In the near future, we will identify the specific budget need for the project, which is anticipated to last for five years.

Please consider what role your agency or organization can play in this effort, whether it will be a nonfederal contribution or a commitment to allow your members or staff to participate in the atlas.

If you are interested in making a monetary contribution to the project at this point, please make checks payable to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and send them to my attention at the address listed below. If you can simply make a pledge at this time, please inform me of that.

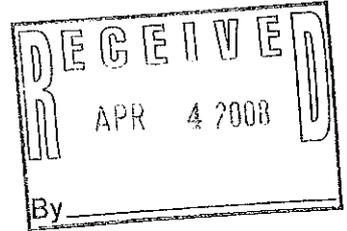
For more information about the funding and administrative aspects of this project, please contact me:

Eileen Dowd Stukel
Wildlife Diversity Coordinator
SD Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks
523 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
phone: 605-773-4229
fax: 605-773-6245
www.sdgifp.info/Wildlife/Diversity/index.htm
eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us

For more information about how the project will be conducted, please contact:

Nancy Drilling
Coordinator
South Dakota Projects
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
230 Cherry St., Suite 150
Fort Collins, CO 80521
tel: 970-482-1707 ext. 22
www.rmbo.org
nancy.drilling@rmbo.org

Jessica Eggers



April 2, 2008

South Dakota Regulatory Office
28563 Powerhouse Road, Room 118
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Native American Environmental
909 St. Joseph Street, #602
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

To Whom it May Concern:

Reference is made to the preliminary information received requesting environmental review/comments on the proposed construction of a trail system and access route within the boundary of the Mount Rushmore Monument, Pennington County, South Dakota.

The Corps' jurisdiction is derived from Section 404 of the Clean Water Act passed by Congress in 1972. Section 404 calls for Federal regulation of the discharge of dredged or fill material into certain waterways, lakes and/or wetlands, (i.e. waters of the United States). Should the proposed project involve either the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters subject to Federal regulation, it is requested that you submit an application for a Department of the Army permit.

Regarding your request for comment relative to environmental impacts, this office assesses project impacts and considers numerous other public interest factors consistent with our regulatory authorities, including environmental impacts, after receipt of the detailed, site specific information required via our permit application process.

You can obtain additional information about the Regulatory Program and download forms from our website:
<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rsd/frame.html>

-2-

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please feel free to contact this office at the above Regulatory Office address or telephone Carolyn Kutz, of my staff, at (605) 224-8531.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Naylor
Regulatory Program Manager,
South Dakota

CF: Baker; US Dept. of the Interior, Keystone, SD

2-4 pm

≈ 28



Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
Public Information - Open House
March 13, 2008

Attending:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Dene Lehman	Mt Rushmore Society	P.O. Box 8250 R.C	glehman@lynnpublish.com
ARLETTE WIEGE	WYSS ASSOCIATES, INC	728 SIXTH ST. RC	arlettew@wyssassociates.com
James Rathgeb	SGU	102 Anvik, Lck	ja.rathgeb@lck.net
Bob MUDLIN	TRADITIONAL PARKING INC	PO Box 257 Keystone	bobmud@windblue.net
Richard Miller	CentersState Park		
Mark J Gray		8325 Kiwan Rd	mycareysd@msu.com
Megan Matten	Mount Rushmore History Assn.	13036 Hwy 244 Keystone SD 57757	megan - matrone.parker.nps.gov
Larry Brown	Mt. Rushmore Society Bd	4825 Pinehatched Pkwy Rt. 2, P.O. Box 9701 13039 Hwy 244	kbrown16@hotmail.com
Doreen	Mount Rushmore National Monument	Keystone, SD 57755 / Dennis	Ferns.denton@NPS.gov
Justin Cuthbert	Mt. Rushmore KOA	PO Box 295 Hill City SD 57745	
Amy Sorenstad	USGS		asorenstad@usgs.gov
Brenda Hill	Mount Rushmore History	13036 Hwy 244, Keystone	brenda-hill@partner.nps.gov



Mount Rushmore National Memorial
 Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
 Public Information – Open House
 March 13, 2008

Attending:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Keith T. Johnson DMV		2436 Canyon Lk. Dr. 50 RC	Ktjohn@rapidsnet.com
Marelyn Owen			goude@rapidsnet.com
Darrin Goude			mary@mt.rushmore.com
Mary Garkin	Mt. Rushmore Society		gstm@vopidnet.com
Phil Grunstrup	MORU	Keystone	
Nancy Dunston	MORU	Deerwood	
Sid Goss	U Missouri	RC	gitzer@missouri.edu
Bob Fitzer			



Mount Rushmore National Memorial
 Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
 Public Information – Open House
 March 13, 2008

Attending:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Diana Seathoff	Mt Rushmore Society	PO Box 1504 Rapid City SD 57709	diana@mrushmore.org
Dawn Bartsch	Volunteer MR	23626 Wildemans Canyon Rd R.C. 57702	dmbarts@msw.com
Janet Lee	BH Visitor Center	1851 Recovery Circle	janet@blackhills-land.com
Paul Jensen		4067 Canyon DR	JCNSK20@Tap.MIDCO.net
Dick + Nancy Gausman		1609 Pol Verde	rgomen@men.com

5-7pm



Mount Rushmore National Memorial
 Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
 Public Information - Open House
 March 13, 2008

Attending:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
D. Johnson	Palmer Gulch / Mt Rushmore Society		
Russ Johnson	Xanterra		
Geraldynn Renner	Norbeck Society	Blackhawk, SD 57718 6906 Ridgewood Drive	geraldynn.renner@k12.sd.us
Quay Allen	MRNMS	4454 W. Glen Pl	
Karen Miller	Nat'l Prose Way Museum	PO Box 238 Keystone	
Ma McLeod	Mt Rushmore Society	3120 Flat Drive Rt 50	
Bill Hovenerkamp	Black Hills Bed & Breakfast	1851 Discovery Cir	bill@blackhillsbedlands.com
Jan Sall	Mt Rushmore History	3901 Wendenland Dr	Ljr Drap.midco.net
KAREN PRAELL	Ketel Thompsonson	4515 Janet Dr RR	Karen@kthlp.com
J. Kase	Mt Rushmore Society	4141 Meadows, Rt 50, SD	57718
Julie L. Gregg	Black Hills Educational Inst.	2707 Mt. Rushmore Rd RR	julie@bhei.org
Nancy MANTANZ	CUSTER	1203 Pine St	



Mount Rushmore National Memorial
 Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
 Public Information – Open House
 March 13, 2008

Attending:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Drew Berglund	Norbeck Society	Rapid City	
Paul Harrett	Mt. Rushmore Society	R.C.	Paul@MTRushmore.com
Roy / Clint	Kotel Thorsbensen LLP	R.C.	Leroy@KTLLP.com
Mike Derby	Mt. Rushmore Society	R.C.	derby@benderco.com
Ruth Sammel	Mt. Rushmore Society	R.C.	rutha.sam@rap.midconet
Ralph Kopp	Norbeck Soc	R.C.	
Linda Nelsen	Kete Thorsbensen	R.C.	Linda@ktllp.com
Jean Bell-Jin		R.C.	
Todd Steffen	Dakota Prairie Landscapes	R.C.	
Sheri Steffen	Dakota Prairie Landscapes		
BOB BURUS	NORBECK SOCIETY	12017 STANLEY RD BKFH	

Mount Rushmore National Memorial
 Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
 Public Information – Open House
 March 13, 2008



Attending:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Amy White		3417 Parkview Dr. Springs Lane	amywhite@rushmore.com judis@rushmore.com
Judith Sides		1210 Mt. Rushmore Rd	
Wes Sutton	Black Hills Educational Inst.	2707 Mt. Rushmore Rd	wes.sutton@teachaide.com
Ralph Farrar		6057 S. Elizabeth Way Centennial, CO 80121	
Dave Muck	FERBER ENGINEERING	729 E WATER TOWN RC, SD 57701	dave.muck@ferberengineering.com
Ronnie William		4004 Maple Ave. Rapid City SD.	baldie@rushmore.com



Mount Rushmore National Memorial
 Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
 Public Information – Open House
 March 13, 2008

Attending:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
Colin Paterson	Norbeck Society	6005 Timberline Rd W	cpaterson@norbeck.society.com
Scott Kenner	SDSMT	4903 Picone St	scott.H.Kenner@sdsmt.edu
Bob Paulson	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	822 MAIN ST, RC 57701	bpaulson@tnc.org



Mount Rushmore National Memorial
 Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
 Public Information – Open House
 March 13, 2008

Attending:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
A. Johnson	Mount Rushmore Society	Box 2008 Pine Ridge	ostep1mj@gwtc.net
Lara Johnson	OST/EPF	Box 2070, Pine Ridge, SD	jeannette@oglab.org
Jannette Ogilby	OST Public Relations		

**Yellow Wolf Loop Trail
Open House Comments
March 13, 2008 and March 20, 2008**

Written Comments

I hope the portion of the Centennial Trail that is currently accessible to horse traffic will continue to be in the future. A comfort station for the animals at the memorial would be helpful. I would also love to see consideration for horse traffic on the new trail system at some point in the future.

A place for picnic areas on the trail would be nice.

Where will parking be for all these hikers?!

Would like to see shorter loops/spurs for those who want a shorter hike.

Liability—for people hiking on trails. Will trails be monitored by Rangers/ In case of emergency how will a person get help?

Restrooms?

The benefit of an expanded hiking trail system at the memorial will generate revenue to surrounding communities. Good for economy. Educating our youth of the significance of the Black Hills will help continue knowledge of the value of this area. Safety of our National Monument is a huge concern! How will it be guarded at all hours? We must think of possible abuse the natural habitats will be exposed to. Waste etc.

Wonderful idea. Would really like to see this happen.

Questions: Overnight hike in camp? Security? Connection to Mickelson Trail? Mountain biking? Cabin owners in Lafferty Gulch? Great plan!

1. Norbeck Society is willing to help in fundraising and volunteer work (trail construction, geological and botanical interpretation. 2. Excited about this—especially the opportunities to get kids out in the wild. 3. Connection with Mickelson and Centennial Trail. Colin Paterson. cpaterson@norbecksociety.com

Would you consider starting your trail naming process at the 4th grade? Standards-based curriculum requires students to study states, National Forests & Parks, geography and their own state—the Rushmore State! Also, you would be bringing the next wave of children on board and preparing for them to be part of your experience. I'm certain the state would agree and help direct information through their South Dakota Studies 4th grade curriculum. Thanks for your consideration. GERALYNN RENNER

A wonderful plan and a great addition to the monument. However, security of the faces is #1!

With thousands of hikers proposed—there should definitely be some restroom accommodations available. Keith T. Johnson

Assessment of potential impacts on wildlife species sensitive to disturbance (goshawks, other interior forest birds, marten, mountain lions, etc.) will be difficult in a few-month NEPA assessment. The proposed system has a very large footprint; leaving 1-2 drainages (of several hundred acres each) undisturbed should be a priority for resource preservation.

Do not open the trails to horse traffic, as the maintenance and construction costs will be higher. Horses also increase the chances of invasive species being brought into the park. An official trail system in the park by hikers and hopefully a budget dedicated to maintaining and repairing the social trail network that already exists. Trails thru Starling Basin will increase risk of vandalism to the park's largest trees.

I “Starling” Basin is the “premiere natural area,” I respectfully suggest changing its name to anything besides an exotic, invading, offensive bird. “eagle” basin matches the aspiration and inspiration of the monument so much better.

1. It would be great to have a tie-in with the Mickelson Bike Trail. 2. Utilize locals to make it happen. 3. Parking closer to trail heads would be appreciated v. paying and fighting crowds. 4. Involve children. 5. Make use of low security detainees to work the trails. Can't wait for it to be completed!

Concerns: fee for trail use? Mountain bikes allowed on trails? Pets allowed? Trails open year-round? Trailhead registration (fee?) Impact to Black Elk wilderness and Norbeck preserve? Dispersed camping allowed (as at Wrinkled Rock?)? Open to rock climbers? Fishing allowed in streams? Parking for trail hikers? Parking access to trailheads at Memorial? Restroom and water availability to hikers? Garbage containers? Any overnight facilities to be opened—i.e. camping? Cabins, etc, ADA? Connect to Centennial Trail? Restrict hiker numbers on trails?

Wonderful idea—“soundscapes” where it is quiet! Thanks for your sensitivity to us who appreciate nature's beauty. Yet, how will you protect these trails from intrusion from motorized, noisy, _____? Please protect the quiet. Love this idea! Becci J. Rowe, Norbeck Society

Let it be known that there is video surveillance, even if there isn't, to discourage vandalism.

This might be an area (Starling Basin Wetland) to consider raised walkway, especially for wet periods.

Jr. Ranger Program for kids. 1 to 2-day nature walks in the trail. Can enroll—enjoy while here on vacation. Go home with Mt. Rushmore patch earned while here! Becci Rowe, Norbeck Society

I was recalling my Centennial weekend hike to the memorial as a Boy Scout. Getting scouts involved would be good.

It is a good idea to change some of the things at Mt. Rushmore. I like the idea of the cultural resources involving the Native American people in the planning process. The education of all people about the history and culture of the Native American and the holiness of the Black Hills is good. As a native that visits the Black Hills every year spring and fall – I never bothered to go to Mt. Rushmore. Maybe with the changes and new trails and activities I will bring my grandchildren there to visit the Park. I never believed in taking my children and grandchildren to Mt. Rushmore. With involvement of children naming the trail is a good idea. Now days they don't experience any thing of history or culture. It was an overall good presentation on the proposal. I hope more people show up at your next informational meeting. Thank you.

NOTE: Wes Shelton said he sent a letter with comments to Duane.

Verbal Comments (shared with NPS staff at openhouse/public meeting)

Trail concept

Like to see social trails as part of the NPS thinking... incorporated into system

Define Social Trails....

Putting trails at most obvious routes...

How will this bring more kids into the memorial for an extended visit.

Fund raiser – memorial placques on trail markers.

Off Trail (can we go for points of solitude)...7 times

Could become a serious issue (GB)

Several questions about Mickelson connector...

How & where will it connect? Interface with Mt. Rushmore loop?

What's the timing for construction?

Security

General concern for security

Traffic

Pros and Cons for horses....

No ATVs.

Interpretation

Geo-spatial side of interpretation

SGU integration. How are guided walks envisioned.

How will we create memories for the trails...memories of park evolution

Logistics

Need parking on west side particular.

No parking besides concession parking lot.

Parking and restrooms at TrailHeads.

No parking at Pflaum Flats..others may be ok.

On peak days, might be good to have hikers somewhere else.

Operational issues – hikers not current customer base.

Other comments

Sound pollution... concerned about quiet. Someone took exception to statement about how MRNM is working with Tribes....

Majority of comments on overall excitement and enthusiasm.... “We’ve waited a long time, what a fantastic idea”.



(605) 355-3600
FAX (605) 355-3601
1851 Discovery Circle, Rapid City, SD 57701
www.blackhillsbadlands.com

March 13, 2008

Dear Superintendent Baker and Staff:

Black Hills, Badlands & Lakes Association has two comments to offer today, and both of them support the development of a forest trail experience at Mount Rushmore

1. The visitor experience at Mount Rushmore today is fundamentally an urban experience. By urban, we mean that visitors experience the Memorial in a setting that includes city-style parking, city-style sidewalks, city style plazas and city-style amphitheatre. It's all very civilized.

Indeed, it was this transition -- from a woodsy, rural environment -- to an urban style environment that was so contentious during the redevelopment years of the 90's. Locals, especially, wanted the rural Black Hills flavor to predominate. The other faction felt Rushmore facilities should be impressive, federalistic and thoroughly modern to accommodate growing millions of visitors. This is not to say one motif is better than the other; they are just different.

The idea of hiking trails within Mount Rushmore National Memorial would re-institute a rural, natural, forest, Black Hills experience -- a nice complement The Faces experience.

2. The second good reason for trails spring from the very commercial concept that time is money. The concept of extending length of stay. The longer you stay somewhere, the more money you will spend there. Time is money. And hiking trails require lots of time.

It's always struck us as odd that, for all of its international magnetism, Mount Rushmore is only a two-hour experience for most visitors. The length of stay at the Memorial -- while it has stretched longer with the new museum and President Trail -- is still surprisingly short. Length of stay at Mt. Rushmore would increase by 100% to 150% (+2 to 3 hours) for hikers.

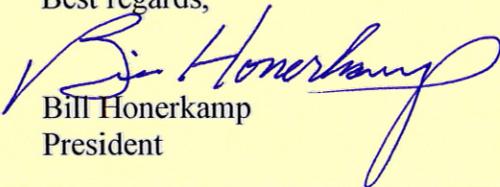
SD Tourism says the average visitor party to South Dakota spends \$221.77 per day. Imputed value for an 8 hour sightseeing day would be \$27.72 per hour. So two or three hours on the trail could computer to +\$50 to \$75 economic impact per hiker party.

Environmentally, we believe the proposed foot trails would lay lightly upon the ground of

the Memorial, largely out of sight and out of earshot from most visitors – and probably most other hikers. We do not foresee appreciable degradation of the unoccupied “wilderness” and back country due to hiker traffic.

Black Hills, Badlands & Lakes enthusiastically supports development of a hiking trail network to diversify the Rushmore experience by providing a Nature experience and to encourage visitors to stay longer at the Memorial and in the Black Hills.

Best regards,



Bill Honerkamp
President

**Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Site Comments
Received April 1 – April 30, 2008**

Keep Private: No
Name: Colin Keeler
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 525 N Central
Pierre, SD 57501
USA
E-mail: colin.keeler@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New **Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 04/28/2008 **Date Received:** 04/28/2008
Number of Signatures: 1 **Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No **Type:** Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I like the general concept, but wonder if that's going to be a trailhead in Lafferty Gulch. That road is very bad, and the people with USFS special use permits won't much care for folks tramping through their back yards to get to the trail, if it runs where it appears on your maps.

Will access to the spur from the BlackBerry trail, east, also be provided at the heli-pad?

Keep Private: No
Name: Mike Hoyme
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 601 Yucca Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
USA
E-mail: mikehoyme@gmail.com

Status: New **Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 04/28/2008 **Date Received:** 04/28/2008
Number of Signatures: 1 **Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No **Type:** Web Form
Notes:

Would it be possible to open this trail up to mountain bikers. There are very few areas which allow bikers to see all of the interpretive signs and other qualities that this trail will have.

If it is not feasible could it be put into future consideration to create a mountain bike trail in the area with all of the attention to detail that this trail will have for us mountain bikers to enjoy?

Thank you, Mike Hoyme

**Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Site Comments
Received April 1 – April 30, 2008**

Status: New **Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 04/27/2008 **Date Received:** 04/27/2008
Number of Signatures: 1 **Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No **Type:** Web Form
Notes:

Keep Private: No
Name: Ralph B. Kopp
Organization: Norbeck Society
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: 709 East Minnesota St
 #302
 Rapid City, SD 57701
 USA
E-mail: ralphbkopp@yahoo.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New **Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 04/23/2008 **Date Received:** 04/23/2008
Number of Signatures: 1 **Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No **Type:** Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I very much like the proposal. I have a couple of suggestions for extending/connecting the trail onto forest service land:

1. Connect east side trail to Grizzley Bear campground on Iron Mountain Road
2. If possible, connect trail in Starling Basin to Centennial Trail

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Rapid City, SD 57702
 USA
E-mail:

**Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Site Comments
Received April 1 – April 30, 2008**

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 04/21/2008	Date Received: 04/21/2008
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

The Mount Rushmore trail will be a great addition to the park. It will make it a summer destination for people who have seen the faces many, many times.

Keep Private:	No
Name:	N/A N/A
Organization:	
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	Rapid City, SD 57702 USA
E-mail:	

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 04/21/2008	Date Received: 04/21/2008
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Looks like a great project.

Keep Private:	No
Name:	John E. Brockelsby
Organization:	Reptile Gardens
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	Box 620 Rapid City, SD 57709 USA
E-mail:	johnnyb@reptilegardens.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 04/21/2008	Date Received: 04/21/2008
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form

**Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Site Comments
Received April 1 – April 30, 2008**

Notes:

Correspondence Text

I believe this trail will be a fantastic opportunity for visitors at Mount Rushmore to experience the beauty, history and culture of the Black Hills. Many of our visitors welcome the opportunity for a more physical hiking experience and this would give them one of the greatest hikes in the hills. I am 100% behind this project.

Thanks
John Brockelsby

Keep Private: No
Name: Jerry W. Cole
Organization: West River Trails Foundation
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: PO Box 1133
Rapid City, SD 57709
USA
E-mail: jwcole@rap.midco.net

Correspondence Information

Status: New **Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 04/21/2008 **Date Received:** 04/21/2008
Number of Signatures: 1 **Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No **Type:** Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I think this trail will be a great addition to the BH trail system. However you must allow access to the monument by bicycle from the trail. The Mickelson spur needs to be open so visitors can ride to the monument on a non motorized trail. It is just to dangerous to ride on the BH shoulder-less road ways.

Keep Private: No
Name: Tedd Schwab
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address: Tucson, AZ 85747
USA
E-mail: pheasantsd@msn.com

**Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Site Comments
Received April 1 – April 30, 2008**

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 04/20/2008	Date Received: 04/20/2008
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

Great Idea...what an outstanding idea. What are we waiting for...let's roll!
Tedd

Keep Private:	No
Name:	Michael Hosking
Organization:	
Organization Type:	I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:	Rapid City, SD 57701 USA
E-mail:	hosking.michael@gmail.com

Correspondence Information

Status: New	Park Correspondence Log:
Date Sent: 04/18/2008	Date Received: 04/18/2008
Number of Signatures: 1	Form Letter: No
Contains Request(s): No	Type: Web Form
Notes:	

Correspondence Text

This looks like an excellent project. I look forward to seeing a little more of the area around the actual sculpture and the opportunity to hike through the memorial on the way to camping spots either north or south in the Forest Service areas.

I am happy to see that the Blackberry trail will be addressed. I have hiked that trail several times and while it is a beautiful hike, there are definitely issues. I am curious about whether or not effort will be made to cooperate with the Forest Service by simply placing a Black Elk Wilderness sign-in location somewhere either near the trail head or near the park boundary. I have entered the wilderness from this point before and know that by law we are suppose to register but there is no place to do so from this entrance point.

I think that this is a good thing for the area and will allow the locals more of a return visit opportunity if they enjoy hiking in the hills.

**Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) Site Comments
Received April 1 – April 30, 2008**

Keep Private: No
Name: N/A N/A
Organization:
Organization Type: I - Unaffiliated Individual
Address:
rapid city, SD 57701
USA
E-mail:

Correspondence Information

Status: New **Park Correspondence Log:**
Date Sent: 04/15/2008 **Date Received:** 04/15/2008
Number of Signatures: 1 **Form Letter:** No
Contains Request(s): No **Type:** Web Form
Notes:

Correspondence Text

I believe this would be a great opportunity to open up more of the wilderness areas around the black hills and mount rushmore. The current trail system is nice, but while exploring this area, it is evident that there is so much more to explore. This trail system that is purposed would lead hikers into areas safely. The area is full of social trails that could potentially lead hikers into areas in which they would have a hard time finding their way out.