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Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service



Environmental Assessment

Inyan Kara Riders Motorcycle Enduro Event

April 2004

**Douglas Ranger District, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
and Thunder Basin National Grassland
Weston County, Wyoming**

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SUMMARY

The District Ranger, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, proposes to authorize the use of National Forest System (NFS) lands by the Inyan Kara Riders for their annual motorcycle Enduro event. The authorization would be for a period of five (5) years. The proposed project area is located in T.47-48N.R.64W. on the Thunder Basin National Grassland in Weston County, Wyoming. The Inyan Kara Riders meet Forest Service requirements and criteria to apply for a Five-Year Priority Special Use Authorization as a result of their fully compliant operation of this event under a temporary (less-than-one-year) authorization for nearly a decade.

The proposed action can provide the applicant with the opportunity to continue to plan, invest in, promote and operate this annual community charity motor sports event.

In addition to the proposed action, the following alternatives were considered and evaluated:

- *Alternative 2, No Action – The Inyan Kara Riders would not be issued a Five-Year Priority Special Use Authorization, but would continue to be issued an annual Temporary Special Use Authorization (less than one year).*
- *Alternative 3 – A Special Use Permit for the event would not be issued.*

Based upon the analysis and findings of the environmental effects of the alternatives, the responsible official will decide whether or not to issue the Inyan Kara Riders a Five Year Priority Special Use Authorization to conduct their annual motorcycle enduro event, and if so, under what circumstances, conditions and stipulations.

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INTRODUCTION

Document Structure

The Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Assessment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations. This Environmental Assessment discloses the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental effects that would result from the proposed action and alternatives. The document is organized in six (6) parts:

- *Introduction:* The section includes information on the history of the project proposal, the purpose of and need for the project, and the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposal and how the public responded.
- *Issues and Alternatives, including the Proposed Action:* This section provides a detailed description of the agency's proposed action as well as alternative methods for achieving the stated purpose. These alternatives were developed based on significant issues raised by the public and other agencies. This discussion also includes possible mitigation measures. Finally, this section provides a summary table of the environmental consequences associated with each alternative.
- *Affected Environment:* This section describes the current/existing natural resource conditions in the analysis area.
- *Environmental Consequences:* This section describes the environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and other alternatives. This analysis is organized by resource area. Within each resource, the affected environment is described first, followed by the effects of the alternative considered in detail.
- *Agencies and Persons Consulted:* This section provides a list of preparers and agencies consulted during the development of the environmental assessment.
- *Appendices:* The appendices provide maps and other information about the analyses presented in the environmental assessment.

Additional project analysis record documentation, including the detailed analysis of the effects of the project on project-area resources, may be found in the project planning record available at the Douglas Ranger District.

Background

The Inyan Kara Riders have operated under a temporary special use permit since 1994. The first round of environmental effects analysis for this event was completed in April 1995, and included a Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation of the possible effects of the event on threatened, endangered and sensitive animal and plant species and their habitats. That effects analysis included internal scoping with numerous natural resource management specialists. No issues or concerns were raised that could not be mitigated. More recently, additional analysis was completed because of a change in the event trail route. Again, no issues were raised that could not be mitigated.

In March 2000, it was necessary to review the project record to include new information that had surfaced since the last analysis. A new Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation dated 6/7/2000 was prepared by the District Wildlife Biologist, and an amendment to the existing annual permit created an event Operating Plan that addressed the details and specifics of how the event would be conducted.

In 2001, in an attempt to reduce the amount of time and money spent on the administration of all non-mineral special use authorizations on the district, the special uses administrator recommended to the Inyan Kara Riders that, based on their successful track record complying with all requirements and provisions of their previous temporary permits, they consider applying for a Five-Year Priority Permit. The application was received February 12, 2001. In March, an external scoping information document was sent to 31 prospective interested parties. Two (2) comment letters were received, one from the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, the other from the then Wyoming Office of Federal Land Policy. Neither letter contained comments describing any issues or concerns about effects of the project that could not be mitigated.

Purpose & Need for Action

The Inyan Kara Enduro is an annual event that is of economic importance to the small community of Upton, Wyoming. Upton has suffered setbacks to its economy in recent years. The Enduro event brings 300 riders, their families and friends to Upton. The event is a boost to the local economy. However, without the assurance that the event can occur each year, local businesses cannot plan for, and make the investments that are necessary to more fully capture the economic opportunities that the event represents and can bring to the community. Nor can the city government promote the Enduro event to tourists.

The Inyan Kara Enduro is a charity ride. All revenues outside of prizes and fees go to needy individuals and organizations in the community as charitable donations. Currently, the Inyan Kara Riders cannot plan for their charitable giving because they cannot project income for more than just the current year. The *need* for a Priority Permit for this event,

as seen by the applicant, is to provide the longer term stability to the planning, investment and promotion that a multi-year authorization can provide the Inyan Kara Riders, the community of Upton and the Rocky Mountain Enduro Circuit organizers.

The *purpose* of this multi-year permitting initiative is two-fold. First, it would reduce the Forest Service administrative workload that is inherent when issuing and re-issuing use permit for a term of less than one year. Secondly, by issuing the applicant a five-year priority permit, the Inyan Kara Riders would be able to plan into out-years for the event, and to invest in the event and its promotion.

Proposed Action

The action proposed is to permit the Inyan Kara Riders (applicant) to conduct an annual motorcycle enduro event on National Forest System lands near Upton, Wyoming by the authority granted in a Five-year Priority Special Use Permit. The event would involve the use of approximately 19 miles of Forest System roads and trails during the event. The same trails and roads would not all be used in successive years – there would be a rotation concept applied that would result in a somewhat different event route used from one year to the next. No parking or related event staging areas, or camping use would occur on NFS lands.

Decision Framework

In the context of the purpose and need for the proposed action, and the results and findings of the environmental effects analysis documented in this environmental assessment (EA), the deciding official will review the proposed action and other alternatives considered in detail, and will decide whether or not, and if so how and under what stipulations and circumstances, the Inyan Kara Riders Enduro event may occur on National Forest System land, and for what period of time in the future.

Public Involvement

The proposed action was listed for the first time in the Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) that was published in April 2001. The project public scoping statement was provided to the public and other agencies in a mailing to 34 individuals, groups and organizations that was made on March 7, 2001. Two (2) comment letters were received, one from the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, the other from the then Wyoming Office of Federal Land Policy. Neither letter contained comments describing any important key issues or concerns about effects of the project that could not be mitigated.

In addition, as part of the public involvement process, the agency published a Legal Notice about this proposal in the Casper Star Tribune on March 8, 2001.

ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES

Issues

The Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team considered and evaluated the public comments received. This review was for the purpose of determining whether or not the comments included the raising of any important or key issues or other concerns. Key issues are defined as those that could be caused when implementing the proposed action and that could result in unacceptable environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated. Other issues or concerns are described as those that are either outside the scope of the proposed action; have already been decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan or policy, or other higher level decision; are irrelevant to the decision to be made, or are conjectural and not supported by scientific or factual evidence. The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA implementing regulations require this issue distinction as described in 40 CFR Part 1501.7 - "...identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (Sec. 1506.3)...". A list of the important and/or key issues raised and the reasons behind such determination may be found in the project record.

The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office raised a concern about the possible adverse impacts of the proposed enduro event on heritage resource sites that may exist along and/or near the trail that would be used by the event promoters, and how such sites would be protected. Forest Service archeologists conducted a 100 percent survey of the event trail route, including all lands within 50 feet on either side of that trail. No sites eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places were identified.

No public issues or concerns were identified in the comments received that could not be mitigated.

Alternatives

This section describes and compares the permitting alternatives considered for the Inyan Kara Riders Enduro event. It includes a description of each alternative considered. It presents the alternatives in comparative form and displays the differences between each alternative so as to provide the decision maker with a clear basis for choice from among the options considered. Some of the information used to compare the alternatives is based upon the design of the alternative while some is based upon the environmental, social and economic effects of implementing each alternative.

Alternative 1

No Action

Continue to issue a Temporary Permit for a term of less than one year.

Alternative 2

The Proposed Action

Issue a Five-Year Priority Special Use Permit to the Inyan Kara Riders.

Alternative 3

A Special Use Permit for the event would not be issued.

Mitigation Measures

In response to an internal review of the proposal and recommendations made by resource management specialists on the review team, the following adverse impact(s) mitigation measures were developed to reduce the likelihood of such impacts to a level that are not significant. These measures would apply to alternatives one and two, and would be made requirements/stipulations in any permit issued.

- Five-pound fire extinguishers will be present at all fueling sites and areas of concentrated use. A county fire engine will be on standby in the event of a fire.
- All vehicles associated with the event will stay on existing roads, trails and/or in parking areas.
- Monitoring of reclaimed abandoned mine sites in the area of the event will occur before and after the event to ensure reclamation was not damaged as a result of off-road motor vehicle use associated with the event.
- No trail use shall occur on the existing segment of trail around the abandoned bentonite mine pit in T47N, R64W, section 14, to avoid impacts to an active golden eagle nest.
- To avoid adverse impacts to wildlife habitat, no race activities may be conducted inside of the fenced habitat area at Kellogg Reservoir.
- Trail crossings of riparian areas will be done at right angles to the riparian zone.
- All vehicles (motorcycles) operating on National Forest System Roads (NFSR) will comply with Wyoming state statutes and Forest Service regulations (i.e. street legal and operators must have driver’s licenses, etc.)
- Vehicles operating on NFS roads are to be restricted to speeds below 35 mph.

- Permit holder will sign all NFS roads being used for this event with approach signing that informs other public vehicles operators that an off-road motorcycle event is occurring and to drive slowly, etc. Signs will comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Permit holder will be responsible for maintaining NFS trails to standard prior to and following the event.

Comparison of Alternatives

This section provides a summary of the effects of implementing each alternative. Information in the table is focused on activities and effects where different levels of effects or outputs can be distinguished quantitatively or qualitatively among alternatives. (Refer to the Environmental Consequences section of this EA for a detailed discussion of the site-specific beneficial and adverse effects of implementing the proposal or alternatives.)

Table I. Environmental and Economic Comparisons by Alternative

Comparison Point	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Charitable Contributions	\$2,000	\$2,000 +	\$0.0
Event Economic Benefit to Upton annually	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$2000.0
Trail Maint. Cost to Gov't. annually	\$0.0	\$0.0	(\$5,000)
Miles of Trail Used and Maintained by permittee	19	19	0
Heritage Sites Eligible/Affected	0/0	0/0	0/0

Grassland Plan Consistency and Compliance

The Proposed Alternative to issue a Five Year Priority Permit meets all Thunder Basin National Grassland Plan Standards and Guidelines described in Chapter 1, Grassland Wide Direction; Chapter 2, Geographic Area Direction; and Chapter 3 Management Area Direction, 4.32 Dispersed Recreation: High Use.

The Scenery Objective for the 4.32 Management Area is ‘Moderate’, which are “landscapes where the valued character appears slightly altered. Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed.” (*Landscape Aesthetics, A Handbook for Scenery Management, USDA Forest Service, Agriculture Handbook Number 701, December 1995*)

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The Upton Osage Geographic Area contains approximately 32,310 acres of National Forest System lands in east-central Wyoming. It is located in the northeastern part of the Thunder Basin National Grassland west of the Black Hills, and contains scattered stands of ponderosa pine forest and grass and sagebrush uplands.

The climate of the Upton Osage Geographic Area is classified as semi-arid Continental. Cold winters and warm summers occur. Somewhat infrequent periods of hot weather characterize the area when temperatures exceed 100° Fahrenheit. Annual precipitation is generally between 15 and 19 inches, and about 40 inches of snow falls each winter. Winds from the southwest are prevalent, and average in excess of 12 miles per hour.

Nearly level plains and ascending hills characterize the topography of the area. Elevation ranges from about 4,500 feet to about 5,200 feet above sea level. The dominant vegetation includes ponderosa pine forest type in the more hilly areas, with sagebrush and numerous grass species occurring on the level plains.

Most of the area drains to the Cheyenne River, although a small portion drains to the Belle Fourche River. The principal drainages in the Cheyenne River watershed are Pine, Iron, and Turner creeks – headwater tributaries of Beaver Creek. The principal drainages in the Belle Fourche watershed are Wind Creek, Arch Creek and Willow Creek.

A cultural properties survey documented the occurrence of five sites and two isolated finds. Four of the sites are located on a trail that would be used. One site is located away from any enduro event activity. The government archeologist determined that none of the sites or isolated finds is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The archeologist recommended no further work and on 6/6/2003 the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer concurred.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section discloses the physical, biological, social and economic effects of the proposed action and the potential changes to those environments due to implementation of the alternatives, including the proposal. It presents the scientific, economic and/or other analytical bases for the comparison of alternatives presented in the chart above.

Heritage Resources

Based upon the survey conducted by, and the determinations of the archeologist that are described in the Affected Environment section above, no beneficial or adverse direct, indirect or cumulative effects are expected if any of the alternatives is implemented.

Soil and Water Resources

Alternative 1 – No Action, *i.e. Continue to issue special use permits with a less-than-one-year term.*

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Approximately 300 motorcycles would use the 19 miles of trail that is the land course of this event. Soil loosening and movement would occur. The severity of the disturbance would be dependent upon the weather conditions, *i.e.* relative wind speed, temperature, humidity, soil moisture, etc. Soil could become airborne on a hot, dry day, and or windy but would generally remain localized to the area along the trail system. A Forest Service employee would monitor the conduct of the event and vegetation disturbance would be minimal because event vehicles would be required to operate within the trail bed only on NFS land, and would be prohibited from traveling off-course and cross-country. Any trail damage resulting from the event would be repaired by the Inyan Kara Riders, as would be required by their permit.

Cumulative Effects:

The cumulative effects on soil and water resources would be negligible. No significant beneficial or adverse cumulative effects on soil or water resources are expected from this activity.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The effects would be the same as those described under the “No Action” Alternative (#1) above, as how the event would occur would be the same.

Cumulative Effects:

No significant beneficial or adverse cumulative effects on soil or water resources are expected from this activity.

Alternative 3 – No Permit

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The level of soil disturbance and soil erosion, or possible effects on water resources that would be associated with the proposed enduro event would not occur. There would continue to be other recreational riders using the trail system year-round with commensurate soil disturbance occurring because of this other use.

The Inyan Kara Riders would no longer be responsible for, and would not contribute to the maintenance and repair of the 19 miles of trail that they would use one day each year. All trail maintenance responsibility would revert to the Forest Service trail crew.

The Douglas Ranger District trail crew has approximately 70 miles of forest system trail to maintain and repair annually. The trail maintenance season is short and is confined to the summer months when the seasonal employees that staff that crew are employed. The addition of the 19 miles of trails at Upton would result in fewer miles of trail being maintained annually, district-wide. A lower level and/or frequency of maintenance on any given trail could result in increased long-term soil erosion and soil loss from runoff on and adjacent to the trail.

The trail system area is a 2 to 3-hour drive northeast of the Douglas Ranger District office in Douglas, Wyoming. For the Forest Service trail crew to perform maintenance on these trails would require at least two weeks of work. The crew would lodge in Upton, and would incur per diem and travel costs to the government. The economic benefit to the Upton community would be minimal. The cost to the government would be significant.

Cumulative Effects:

A reduction in the general level and/or frequency of trail maintenance along the 19 miles of trail in the Upton area, and on other trails district-wide, could result in a significant adverse cumulative effect on the soil and water resources in areas where these trails are located.

Wildlife Resources

Alternative 1 – No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The district wildlife biologist prepared a Biological Assessment/ Biological Evaluation report. A synopsis of the biologist's findings is presented below.

Threatened and Endangered Species – Bald Eagles are the only federally threatened species known to occur on Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG). *There are no nest or winter roost sites known to be located within one (1) mile of the proposed enduro event area. There is no effect on the bald eagle that is expected as a result of this event.*

- Species Proposed for Federal Listing – None
- USFS Region 2 Sensitive Species – Those species that may be found on TBNG are the northern leopard frog, tiger salamander, milk snake, black hills red-bellied snake, Townsend's big-eared bat, fringed-tailed myotis, swift fox, long-billed curlew, ferruginous hawk, merlin, western burrowing owl, loggerhead shrike, fox sparrow, mountain plover, upland sandpaper, Baird's sparrow and the tawny crescent butterfly. *No adverse impacts on any of these species is expected, nor is the project expected to cause a trend toward federal listing or the loss of species viability range-wide.*
- Management Indicator Species – Those species that may be found on TBNG are pronghorn antelope, prairie vole, Brewer's sparrow, ferruginous hawk, long-billed curlew, mule deer, sage grouse, mountain plover, red crossbill, red-headed woodpecker, bald eagle, golden eagle, upland sandpaper, house wren and the Woodhouse's toad.
- A golden eagle nest is located at a specific known location in the event area described in the Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation. No other known unique MIS habitats or habitats of concern have been identified that could be adversely impacted. *There are no other raptor nests, rookeries, or other sensitive areas known to occur within one (1) mile of the proposed event activity area.*
- Threatened and Endangered Species – Bald Eagles are the only federally threatened species known to occur on Thunder Basin National Grassland (TBNG). *There are no nest or winter roost sites known to be located within one (1) mile of the proposed enduro event area. There is no effect on the bald eagle that is expected as a result of this event.*

Cumulative Effects:

No significant beneficial or adverse cumulative effects on the wildlife resources are expected from this activity.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The effects would be the same as those described under the “No Action” Alternative (#1) above, because how the event would occur would be the same.

Cumulative Effects:

No significant beneficial or adverse cumulative effects on the wildlife resources would be expected.

Alternative 3 – No Permit

Direct and Indirect Effects:

There would be a reduced level of adverse impacts to the wildlife resource during the time period as compared with the effects under the alternatives above. The trails would continue to be used and enjoyed on that day and year-round by other motorcycle enthusiasts, as well as four-wheel vehicle, and snowmobile riders when there is adequate snow cover. Therefore, it is expected that there would be little or no change in the character of the area along the trail system or in the overall impacts on wildlife that use that area. During the 10 years that the event has operated under an annual permit, the wildlife that use the area have adapted to the motorized trail activity in the area.

Cumulative Effects:

No significant beneficial or adverse cumulative effects on the wildlife resources would be expected.

Social and Economic Considerations

Upton, Wyoming is considered an “underserved community” as defined by the Rural Development Program, United States Forest Service, and has suffered a number of local area economic setbacks during the past several years. The city leaders have worked for years to find ways to draw tourists and tourist dollars to the Upton area. However, even the town’s proximity to the Black Hills has not resulted in drawing those tourists that have the Hills as their destination to the Upton area. The Inyan Kara Enduro event has been one of the few economic bright spots for the community, and is an annual event that brings hundreds of people into the local area. These people spend money in Upton during the weekend of the enduro.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The Inyan Kara Riders and their supporters could not plan ahead for, invest in or aggressively promote this event. Since the preparations for the event need to begin weeks in advance, there could be years when there would be little opportunity to finalize arrangements, or to accommodate last minute changed plans or circumstances. In part because of the uncertainty about obtaining a permit from one year to the next, Paul Douglas, the president of the Inyan Kara Riders, has expressed his concern about continuing to sponsor and hold the enduro event at Upton.

Cumulative Effects:

A beneficial effect on the overall economic opportunities and social conditions in the Upton area would be expected. No significant adverse cumulative effect would be expected.

Alternative 2 - Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Under this alternative, the Inyan Kara Riders, and the community of Upton would be able to plan for, invest in, promote and hold the annual Enduro for at least the next five years.

There would be an opportunity for the businesses in Upton and the local government to advertise and promote the event in advance. This could bring a larger crowd to watch the event, give the town the opportunity to plan events around the Enduro that could promote the Upton area and surrounding local region, and provide a seed interest to build on to promote the goal of increasing the number of tourist and other visitors that would visit the area throughout the year.

The charitable arm of the Enduro organization would benefit from the assurances provided by a five-year permit. The current situation of permitting on a year-by-year basis limits the scope of the charitable contributions the Inyan Kara Riders can expect to raise. If they are able to plan and project charitable solicitations in advance, they may well be able to increase their contributions to local individuals and organizations in future years. An increased charitable program would be good for the community and its residents.

Cumulative Effects:

A significant beneficial effect on the overall economic opportunities and social conditions in the Upton area during the five-year term of the permit would be expected.

No known significant adverse cumulative effects on the social or economic conditions in the area would be anticipated.

Alternative 3 – No Permit

Direct and Indirect Effects:

The Enduro is a point of pride for the community of Upton as it provides a means for pulling people in, is a “grassroots” event organized by active members of the community and serves a vital function to the local economy. Its loss would be another blow to a community that has had real economic setbacks in recent years with the closing of the local bentonite mine that was an important job source locally.

Much of the land surrounding Upton is publicly owned and a part of Thunder Basin National Grassland. The relationship between the Inyan Kara Riders/City of Upton and the Forest Service has been positive and productive due to the cooperation between these parties in relation to the annual enduro event. With the loss of this permit to the riders and the community that relationship ends as well as the current user-provided maintenance of the 19 miles of Forest System trails used for the event.

If the Inyan Kara Riders do not receive a permit to operate their one-day motor sports event, the community will lose the benefit of the revenues gained from the nearly 800 people that make Upton their destination during the weekend of the event. Additionally, there would be a loss of local charitable contributions to benefit the community in the amount of \$2,000. The City of Upton has indicated that this would be a significant loss. According to the Inyan Kara Riders, the Rocky Mountain Enduro Circuit would lose one of its top-rated events.

Cumulative Effects:

The trail system area used by the Inyan Kara Riders is a 2 to 3-hour drive northeast of the Douglas Ranger District office in Douglas, Wyoming. For the Forest Service trail crew to perform maintenance on these trails would require at least two weeks of work. The crew would lodge in Upton, and would incur per diem and travel expenses. The economic benefit of these lodging and related dollars spend in the Upton area would generally be approximately \$2,000., annually. The total cost to the government would be approximately \$5,000 annually to maintain the 19 miles of trail in the Upton area.

There would be some level of loss of enjoyment for and by recreation trail users of the entire 70-mile trail system on the Douglas Ranger District because of a reduction in overall maintenance and repair.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, signed by President Bill Clinton on February 11, 1994, titled “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” provides that Federal agencies will make environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of Federal programs on these populations. The Order directs the Forest Service to ensure that effective public notification occurs, and that the public has full access to information about the proposed action, to work to gain public participation in the analysis and decision making processes, and to mitigate such effects if they could occur.

The racial and economic status and composition of the community and persons living in and near the proposed project area in Weston County, Wyoming was considered during a review of the effect the proposed Inyan Kara Riders Enduro Event Priority Permit could have on socio-economic conditions in the analysis area. This review considered whether or not minorities, low-income populations or American Indian tribes are present in the area that could or would be affected by the project.

Public involvement scoping about the site-specific proposed action included contacts with American Indian tribes known or presumed to have an interest in any projects occurring on the Thunder Basin National Grassland. All local landowners, Weston County Commissioners, the potentially affected grazing association and the general public, were contacted directly, or were otherwise made aware of the proposal. Local landowner, county, tribal and general public representation participation was sought in a manner consistent with Forest, agency and departmental regulations and policy, and with government-to-government relationships between the United States and tribal governments.

After examining the possible environmental and human impacts of the decision that will be made about the project, the ID team and District Ranger are of the opinion that there are no disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects that would occur to minority or low income groups, or American Indian tribes, and that the public involvement efforts undertaken by the ID Team and District Ranger are adequate to have identified such groups if they exist, or had an interest in the project. The District Ranger has determined that there would be no disproportional social or economic adverse impacts to these groups as a result of the implementation of the proposed enduro Priority Permit.

The District Ranger also has determined that equal access opportunity for minorities and people with disabilities would be maintained at a level at or above that which is presently found to exist in the project area. It is highly unlikely that a reduction in the public use of the Federal lands in that area by such persons or groups as a result of the implementation of the proposed project would occur.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Forest Service consulted the following individuals, Federal, state and local agencies, tribes and non-Forest Service persons during the development of this environmental assessment:

ID TEAM MEMBERS:

Marcia Rose-Ritchie
Clarke McClung
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Joanne Homuth
Robin Brooks

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES:

U.S.D.I. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
Wyoming State Office of Federal Land Policy

TRIBES:

Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
Oglala Sioux Tribe
Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council
Cheyenne River Lakota Tribal Council
Northern Arapaho
Standing Rock Lakota Tribal Council
Crow Nation
Hunkapapa-Santee-Sioux
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Standing Rock Lakota Tribe

MAPS ARE AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING THE DISTRICT

APPENDIX

Map(s)