

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST PLAN RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, we, the Weston County Commissioners, recognize the importance of a management plan for the Black Hills National Forest that provides water, recreation, grazing, mining, wildlife, and timber, and

WHEREAS, water, recreation grazing mining, wildlife, and timber support communities, industries and families for economic and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Black Hills National Forest is one of the most productive, best-managed, highly-profitable and publicly used forests in the nation;

WHEREAS, measures are taken to provide for water yield and protection, fire prevention, wildlife habitat, environmental protection and aesthetics throughout the forest; and

WHEREAS, there are adequate acres of wilderness, federal and state set-aside acres in the Black Hills area for those searching for primitive experiences; and

WHEREAS, the Black Hills National Forest ten (10) year plan, released on December 11, 1996, would decrease the effectiveness of public input through broad generalized standards and guidelines, create uncertainty by not providing targets for commercial outputs from the forest, jeopardize private property through high risk management, reduce the twenty-five (25%) percent funds to Weston County from timber and grazing receipts (which will put an additional tax burden on property owners within federal land tax districts), and decrease overall forest health by increasing wildfire and insect risk.

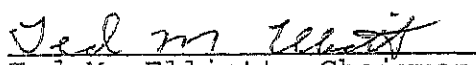
WHEREAS, some current areas of old growth are not being considered in the plan released on December 11, 1996, and these old growth areas if considered would have a positive affect on the ASQ of the forest.


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that we support a substantial increase in the proposed Allowable Sale Quantity to over Eighty Three (83) Million Board Feet per year which would maintain forest health and sustain the existing timber industry in the Black Hills;


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we oppose the plan to increase prescribed burning because of the increase in risk of wildfire and cost to taxpayers;

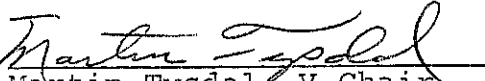
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request that the U.S. Forest Service revise the proposed plan to accommodate these concerns to protect all resources including local economic stability.


DATED this 8th day of January, 1997.

  
Ted M. Elliott, Chairman

  
Lewis M. McCoy, Member

  
Ted Erman, Member

  
Martin Tysdal, V-Chair

  
Walt Soper, Member