

1. Commission Letter

Documents:

[COMMISSION LETTER .PDF](#)

1.1. Proposed Agenda

Documents:

[APRIL 17, 2020 PROPOSED TIMBER COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA.PDF](#)



LAWRENCE COUNTY

SOUTH DAKOTA

Lawrence County Commissioners
90 Sherman Street, Deadwood SD
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commissioners@lawrence.sd.us

"Where Beauty and Adventure Meet"

April 17, 2020

Mr. Andrew K. Johnson
Acting Forest Supervisor
BHNF
1019 North 5th Street
Custer, SD 55730-8214

Dear Supervisor Johnson -

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the draft FIA and GTR. Lawrence County has a long track record of working with the USFS on Forest related issues. A recent example is the Cooperative Agency Agreement entered into with the USFS in 2019. That Agreement represents the County's ongoing stewardship efforts, and is further indicative of the compelling interest the County has in the health, viability and long term sustainability of the Forest. You see, the Forest really is at the heart of the community. While it is true that the citizens of the County appreciate the forest for many different reasons; nonetheless, the Lawrence County Commission is elected to represent the spectrum of varying interests shared by its citizens. Anticipating the stakeholder meeting scheduled for May 1, 2020, upon the recommendation of the Lawrence County Timber Committee, the following questions are submitted on behalf of Lawrence County.

1. On Table 1 of the GTR, the Gross Growth in 2019 is more than 25% less than what it was in 2017. How was the growth calculated? Were there any differences in the way the growth was calculated?
2. The FIA report does not include trees smaller than 5" in DBH. Was any data collected for this diameter class? Leaving this information out of the growth calculations means that a very important piece of the growth projections is missing. This is especially true considering the number of acres that are present on the landscape. This diameter class should not be overlooked. One of the major concerns voiced by BHNF is that there are thousands of acres of dog hair on the Forest some of which is under existing live overstory or in areas where there was significant mpb mortality. How many acres of the BHNF is in this size class? What are stocking levels and how much of these sites have been precommercially thinned and to what spacing? Gross Growth appears low in FIA for 5" dia class if it is capturing ingrowth. Do Stage 2 Inventory Stand Exam plots inventory seedlings and saplings? An example of why including this size class in the projected growth over the next 20 years is important is laid out in the following scenario: 10,000 acres of saplings averaging 3" in diameter, stocked at 300 trees per acre (12 by 12 spacing) growing at 3" in diameter (1.5" radial growth) every decade will grow into 50 million board feet of merchantable timber (9") in 20 years. Basal area would be around 130 square feet per acre assuming no mortality.
3. Explain why the mortality numbers are so much higher in 2017 and 2019 than in 2011? Why does the mortality increase between 2017 and 2019? Please explain how the 2019 FIA inventory collected mortality since it did not re-measure the 2017 inventory points? Explain how FIA dealt with mortality with the intensified plots?
4. What is the radial growth of each of the cross sections for each tree spacing distance that was illustrated in GTR?
5. How many acres are designated as suited in the Forest Plan, and what process did the BHNF use to determine those acres?
6. What effort has been made to ensure other local government agencies understand the impacts these decisions will have on their constituency? How do you plan to ensure they are included as stakeholders?
7. Jerry Krueger has stated that the BHNF has had no contact or influence over the GTR and yet on page 15 (if page 1 is the abstract page) under "Scenarios" second paragraph the GTR states "To that end, we the authors, in consultation with the Leadership of the BHNF and Rocky Mountain Region crafted six scenarios that directly and/or indirectly addressed the above questions." This appears to be a contradiction, no?
8. Given the current structure of the stakeholder meetings, how will the Forest include additional time for discussion among stakeholders, BHNF staff, researchers, and FIA staff?
9. How will the FS and researchers incorporate concerns from stakeholders on certain aspects of the FIA analysis and GTR before reaching any conclusions or further discussion about the timber sale program level?
10. What is the specific timeline for future meetings, and when is a decision from these stakeholder meetings expected?

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Flanagan, Chairman



**Timber Committee Meeting Agenda
Commission Room ~ 90 Sherman Street,
Deadwood, South Dakota
Friday, April 17, 2020**

SPECIAL MEETING

3:00 p.m. - Call Meeting to Order

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Call meeting to order Approve agenda Update from USFS FIA stakeholder meeting Draft FIA and GTR Comments

5:00 p.m. - Adjourn

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Adjourn

*Agenda subject to change. Times are approximate.

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***Next meeting: future meetings T.B.A. as needed

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