

**APPENDIX C  
PAST AND PRESENT  
and  
FORESEEABLE ACTIVITIES**



**APPENDIX C – PAST, PRESENT, and FORESEEABLE ACTIVITIES in the MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE RESPONSE PROJECT**

Records indicate that harvesting within the National Forest (project area) has occurred as far back as the 1880s. Prior to settlement of the Black Hills traditionally thought of as the 1870s, the forest structure was influenced by American Indian use of fire and natural disturbances such as lightning creating wildfires, windthrow and insects.

Forest activities for the recent past (1997-2011) are summarized in the following table:

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Units</b>	
Natural Fuels - Burn Piles	112,196	Ac
Natural Fuels - Prescribed Burning	28,649	Ac
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Wildlife - Habitat Planting	1,255	Ac
Wildlife - Planting Shrubs	16	Ac
Wildlife - Prescribed Burn	3,850	Ac
Wildlife - Release Cutting	9,231	Ac
Wildlife - Harvest Trees	16,587	Ac
Regenerate Aspen	5,485	Ac
Wildlife - Tree Encroachment Control	8,918	Ac
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Range Seeding	957	Ac
Noxious Weed Treatment	127,333	Ac
Tree Encroachment Control	4,126	Ac
Watershed Improvement	791	Ac
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Establishment Cut	82,542	Ac
Shelterwood Removal Cut	59,246	Ac
Individual Tree Selection	11,760	Ac
Commercial Thinning	111,144	Ac
Special Harvest	7062	Ac
Sanitation/Salvage	6,427	Ac
<b>SUBTOTAL of Harvest Activity</b>	<b>278,181</b>	<b>Ac</b>
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Regen Surveys	236,914	Ac
Natural Regen Certification	165,455	Ac
TSI - Precommercial Thin	119,774	Ac
Silviculture Stand Exam (multiple surveys)	963,702	Ac
Post Treatment Exam	14,987	Ac
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Sensitive Species Surveys	14,422	Ac
TE&S Plant Surveys	25,640	Ac

**Present / Foreseeable Actions**

None of the potential treatment areas associated with the MPBRP would occur within current and/or foreseeable NEPA projects, such as:

Briggs	28,916 Acres	Herman	21,572 Acres	Calumet	31,781 Acres
Cold Springs	13,969 Acres	Pactola	26,017 Acres	Vestal	43,516 Acres
Steamboat	24,596 Acres	Buttes	11,441 Acres		

The project area contains overhead and underground distribution and transmission power utility lines under special use permits: Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Black Hills Power, West River Cooperative, Quest (Century Link), Golden West Telephone, etc. Maintenance is ongoing for these facilities.

Firewood gathering and Christmas tree cutting by permit will continue to occur within the area.

Road / Utility right-of-way clearing – Road construction and maintenance and right-of-way brushing can be expected to continue on non-National Forest System lands.

Subdivision development - Given current trends, it is likely that additional private lands may be subdivided and new residences constructed. Special use permits such as utility, water line, rights-of-way, and access/easements may be requested.

Private landowners may harvest timber on their own lands to reduce mountain pine beetle and fire hazard and for lumber.

Participating Agreements with Lawrence and Pennington Counties to reduce MPB on private and NFS lands adjacent to private.

Range developments and livestock grazing - Includes fencing, dugouts, wells, spring developments, etc. Cattle grazing would continue.

Wildfires - The frequency, size and intensity of possible wildfires depend upon various factors, including weather, ignition means, and fuels loadings.

Mining activity – It is likely that there would be some additional mining claims reviewed within the project area, as well as mine shaft closures due to safety and/or bat/wildlife concerns.

Recreation – Recreation activities will continue to increase on the Forest. General maintenance would continue to occur for all other developed recreation sites within the project area. Within developed campgrounds, some trees may be sprayed to protect trees against mountain pine beetle.

Treatments to reduce or eliminate noxious weeds and invasive species would continue on NFS and private property.

Black Hills Power (BHP) plans to construct a Teckla-Osage-Lange 230 Kv Transmission line from approximately Teckla Substation in Wyoming to Osage Substation in Wyoming to the Lange Substation in South Dakota (NW of Rapid City).

In 2005, the Forest Service published a new rule for providing OHV access to national forests and grasslands. The rule itself does not designate roads or areas for OHV's, but provides a framework for making those decisions at the local level. The Black Hills National Forest issued a FEIS/ROD (May 7, 2010) designating routes for motorized use forest-wide. Implementation began on December 1, 2010 with the Motorized Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for the Black Hills National Forest.