



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS

11361 NEVADA GULCH ROAD | LEAD, SD 57754-9801

February 13, 2025

Greetings Mr. Gubbels,

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Black Hills Snowmobile Program, would like to submit comments on the Sawbuck Forest Management Project. Our Black Hills Trails Office has reviewed the project and would like the following comments to be considered for this project.

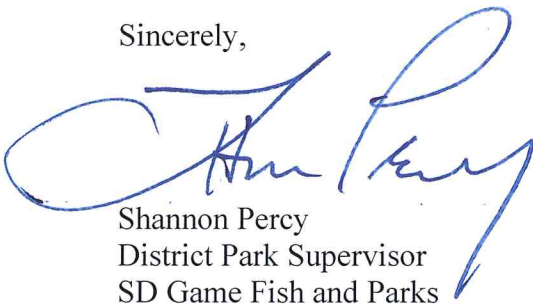
The Black Hills Snowmobile Trails season begins on December 1 and concludes on March 31. This project has several areas that would impact snowmobile trails by plowing of trails/roads on the actual trail system. We would like to recommend that this project consider halting any enhancements and road plowing for this project that will impact the trail system during the snowmobile season. The 350-mile Black Hills Snowmobile Trail System is one of the top trail systems in the Nation. The Black Hills trails is considered a destination for snowmobilers and having trail sections closed will not only negatively impact snowmobilers but local businesses/economy as well.

The Mickelson Trail corridor also borders this project but we are uncertain if it will impact the non-motorized Trail or its right-of-way. Logging equipment can cross our trail but not drive down our trail. We would like to be informed of what prescriptions are planned that might impact our corridor. The Mickelson Trail is a very popular Rails to Trails that receives thousands of users year around. There are several events that take place throughout the year that could be impacted by this project.

Thank you for considering our comments on this project. The contact person for the Snowmobile Trails and Mickelson Trail system is Shannon Percy with the Black Hills Trails Office at 605-584-3896.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Shannon Percy
District Park Supervisor
SD Game Fish and Parks