



CROOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 37
SUNDANCE, WYOMING 82729-0037
(307) 283-1323

January 3, 2013

RE: County Roads within the Forest Service Boundaries

Dear Landowners within the Black Hills National Forest,

The Board of County Commissioners invite you to attend a public meeting on **Wednesday January 30, 2013 from 6 to 8 P.M. in the Crook County Courthouse Community Room in Sundance, Wyoming** to review the County's proposal to resolve the issue of which roads within the Black Hills National Forest in Crook County, WY are county roads. The County Attorney and others have been working on these issues off and on since 1996 with the local Forest Service staff. For the past year, the County and Forest Service staff have been meeting monthly to determine the claimed jurisdiction of what roads are and are not county roads.

Historically, the County declared a number of roads as county roads through what is now the Black Hills National Forest. This occurred before and after the "Bear Lodge National Forest" was created and reserved from being homesteaded. The county's legal right to the road depends upon when and where the County established a particular road. This may not determine the width and or scope of the road's use. Rather than litigate the competing rights of the County and Forest Service, both would like to resolve these issues and have chosen to continue the process of clarifying our respective rights. The Forest Service has the authority pursuant to 16 U.S.C.A. § 532 - 538 National Forest Roads and Trails Act (NFRTA) to grant the County permanent easements without the County giving up existing legal claims. To do so the County needs to make a request of the routes that it would like permanent easements for County Roads.

Before the County submits its request to the Forest Service, the Board would like your written or oral input. This is likely a once in a lifetime opportunity and it affects your interest in real property. We have enclosed a Map of our initial proposal. If you would like a more detailed map call the Growth and Development Department at 283-4548 and they can assist you.

The Forest Service has indicated that they, like any large land manager, want to maintain legal access across the private lands within the Forest Service. The Board would like to know if you want a county road or a forest service road leading to and through your property. It is a possibility that the route across your property may be changed. If you have a suggestion, you will need to present it.

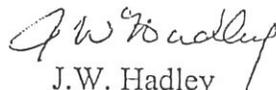
A change in jurisdiction from the County to the Forest Service or vice versa will not increase maintenance. The County currently has a road maintenance agreement with the Forest Service on some of the county roads through the Forest Service. The agreement is as follows: The Forest Service maintains what it wants within the Forest Service boundary as they see fit, and the County maintains nothing within the boundary. This is unlikely to change in the future.

The Board plans to gather additional input from the public on **Wednesday February 20, 2013 from 6 to 8 P.M. in the Crook County Courthouse Community Room in Sundance, Wyoming.** Once the Board hears from everyone then we will modify our proposal and submit it to the Forest Service in March. The Forest Service will take 6 - 18 months to complete their review process of our request. This will require further public hearings on their part.

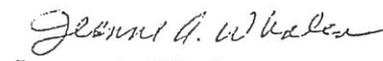
Any written comments and proposals need to be provided to the County Clerk by **February 28th** to insure that the Board will receive them and consider them. For additional information go to the county website at www.crookcounty.wy.gov and information will be posted as it becomes available.

Once again this is likely a once in a lifetime opportunity, it affects your interest in real property so you need to speak now or forever hold your peace.

Sincerely,


J.W. Hadley
Chairman


Kelly B. Dennis
Vice-Chairman


Jeanne A. Whalen
Member

Enclosures: Map

Agenda

February 20, 2013 Forest Road & Trails Act Easement Road Hearing

1. Open Meeting – Pledge of Allegiance
2. Thank you for coming by Chairman Hadley
3. Purpose of Meeting---County Commissioners are considering whether to obtain FRTA Easement from the Forest Service and Review Letter
 - a. There is NO anticipated change in Maintenance or Construction
 - b. Need your input on the proposal to be submitted to the Forest Service on or about March 6, 2013 since it affects you
 - c. Options to be considered:
 - i. No change to Forest Service Roads, County Road or Private Permits or Easements,
 - ii. Alter routes of roads, or
 - iii. Vacate roads and routes.
 - d. We have three maps of the Black Hills National Forest on these three tables. North of 24, South of 24 to 14, and South of I-90.
4. A little history on the establishment of public roads within the Black Hills National Forest by Dave Plummer.
5. Why now? Steve Kozel.
6. Answer Questions for 15-20 minutes then go to Map tables to gather input for each area. If we cannot answer your questions, you will need to write them down with contact information so one of us can respond. See Forms.
7. Thank you for attending and providing input Chairman Hadley

February, 2013 FRTA Easement Road Hearing

Question: _____

Who do you want to answer: (Circle one) County, Forest Service, Other

Print Contact Information: Name

Address

E-Mail

REQUEST FORM February, 2013 FRTA Easement Road Hearing

I would like County Road Number _____ Forest Service Road No. _____

Named: _____

TO (Circle one)

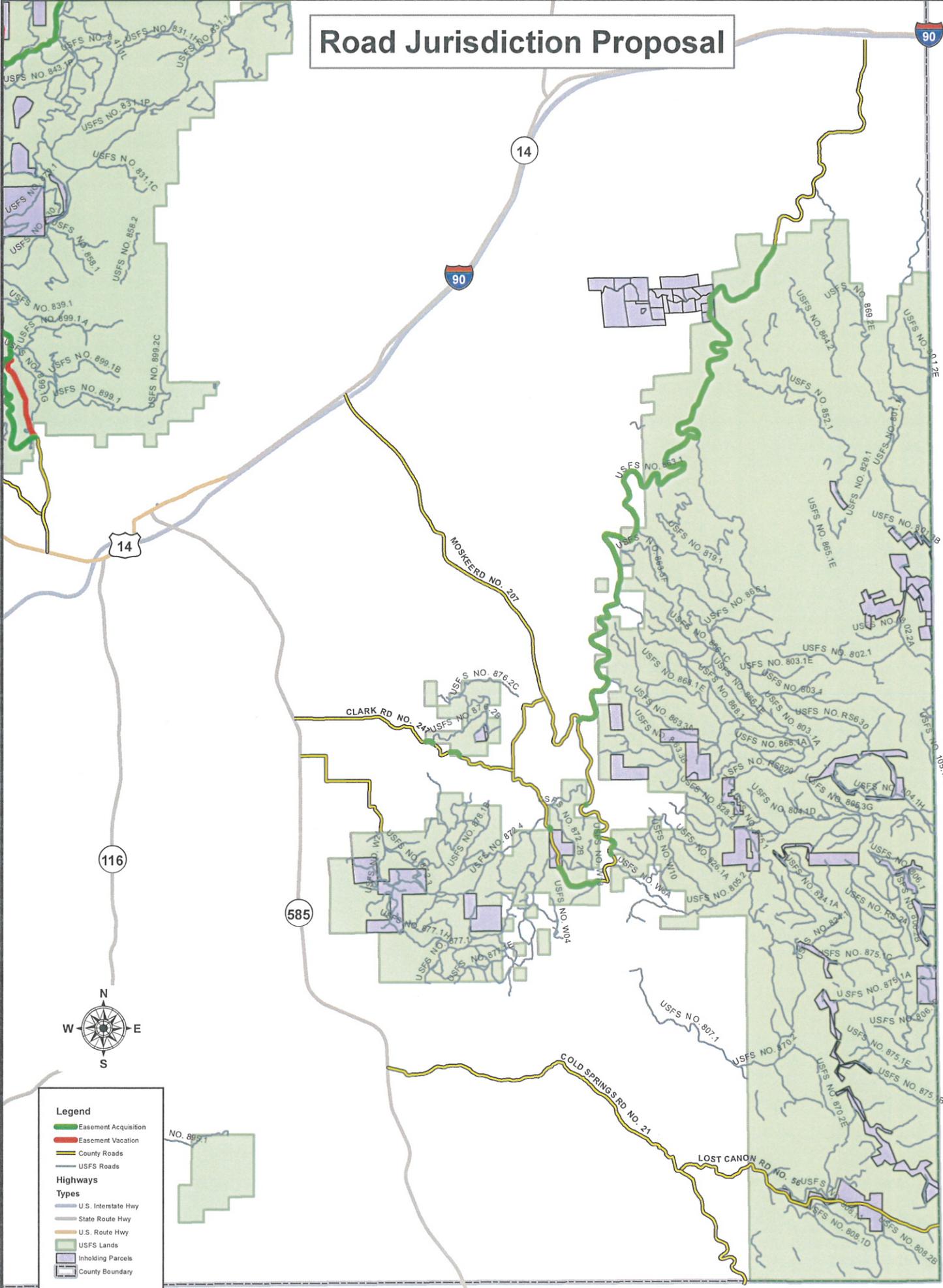
REMAIN THE SAME	COUNTY CONTROL	FOREST SERVICE CONTROL
VACATED TOTALLY	VACATED TO FOREST SERVICE	VACATED TO AREA LANDOWNERS
ALTERED	REROUTED	OTHER
ESTABLISHED BY COUNTY	ESTABLISHED BY FOREST SERVICE	RECIPROCAL EASEMENT WITH FOREST SERVICE

EXPLAIN: _____

(See attached Map)

Contact Information _____

Road Jurisdiction Proposal



14

14

116

585



Legend

- Easement Acquisition
- Easement Vacation
- County Roads
- USFS Roads

Highways

Types

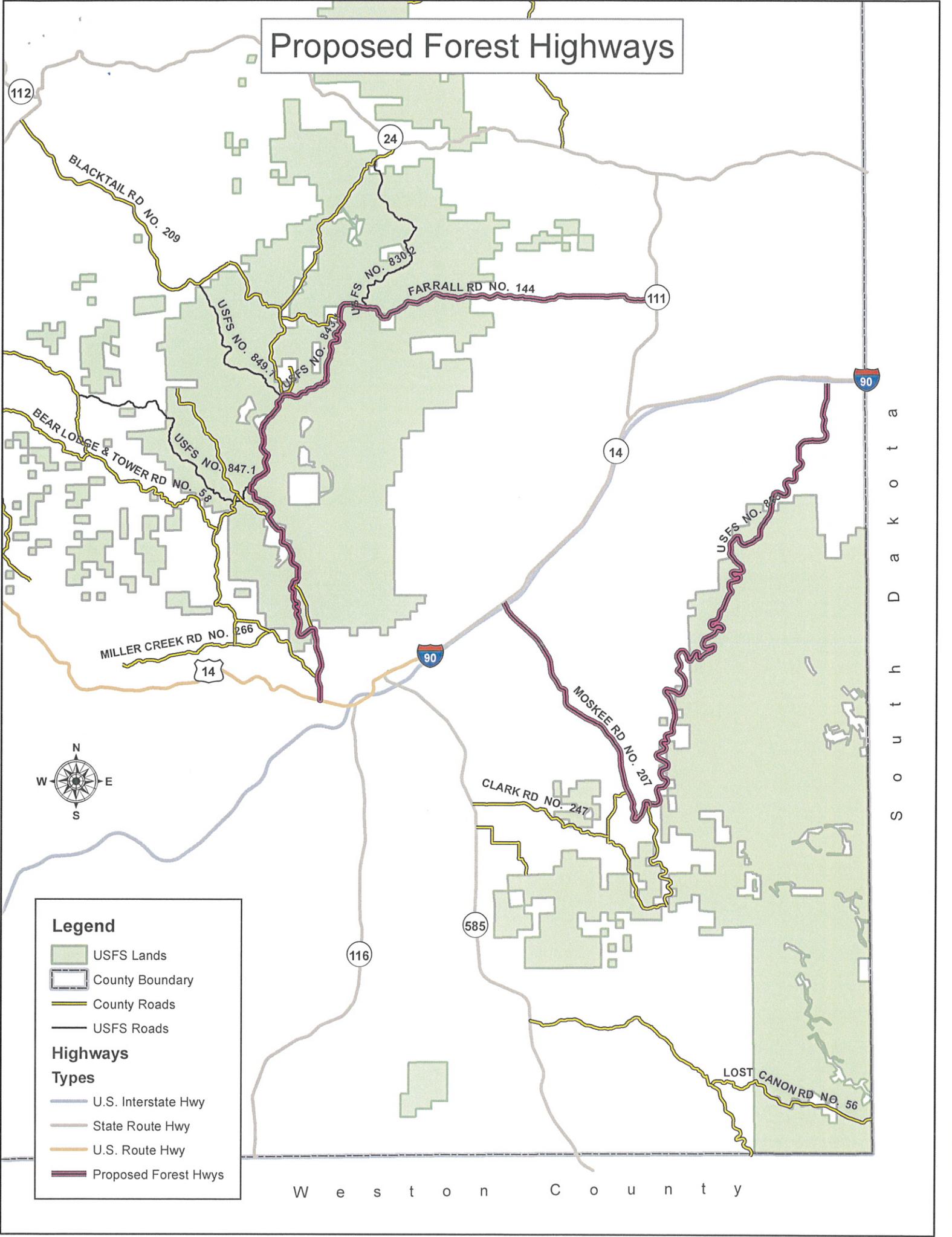
- U.S. Interstate Hwy
- State Route Hwy
- U.S. Route Hwy

- USFS Lands
- Inholding Parcels
- County Boundary

W e s t o n C o u n t y

s o u t h D a k o t a

Proposed Forest Highways



Legend

- USFS Lands
- County Boundary
- County Roads
- USFS Roads

Highways

- ### Types
- U.S. Interstate Hwy
 - State Route Hwy
 - U.S. Route Hwy
 - Proposed Forest Hwys

S o u t h D a k o t a

W e s t o n C o u n t y