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## Fort Meade Recreation Area Newsletter Updated March 26, 2010

**February through June:** Cottle Creek Stewardship Contract. The treatment is designed to retain hardwood draws by removing the more shade tolerant pine. In addition, upland stands will be thinned to reduce Mountain Pine Beetle susceptibility. Activity includes cutting and skidding of timber, log decks adjacent to and hauling along the contractor plowed Byway. The Byway remains closed to the public for safety.

**May through September:** American Restoration and Recovery project to repair the Byway slump, widen several corners, and add gravel. Dates are uncertain, but it is likely the Byway will be closed at least part of the time to facilitate safe repairs.

**May 1:** National Public Lands Day will be celebrated at the Fort Meade Reservoir. The public is invited to lend a hand to help manage the land by planting trees at the popular recreation site. The fun will start at 9:00 a.m., and depending on how many hands are helping, should be done about 1:00 pm. A light snack will be provided, but please bring your own gloves to protect your hands.

**May 9:** Mountain Bike Ride on the Centennial Trail and unlabelled backcountry trails.

**May 23:** Alkali Creek Trailhead will be the start of the Black Hills Runners competitive run uphill into the Black Hills. Fortunately they get to run downhill all the way back to finish at the Trailhead. Expect increased traffic and parking congestion at the Campground/Trailhead.

**Upcoming:** The National Guard and Air Force will continue to use Fort Meade for training throughout the summer. The activity usually involves soldiers in camouflage – so you might not even see them! Cattle will be rotated through multiple pastures within three allotments on Fort Meade over the summer. Rotation dates will depend on grass utilization.