



Rocky Mountain Region, USDA Forest Service
Position Outreach/Announcement

**RECREATION PLANNER (FOREST PLAN REVISION)
GS-401-9/11, Bighorn National Forest,
Sheridan, WY**



Position Information

The Bighorn National Forest is readvertising for a **Recreation Planner**. The announcement (GS-401-9/11) will be effective September 5 through October 2. This position is also being advertised as a DEMO (allowing persons currently serving in a temporary capacity the ability to apply).

The incumbent reports to the Planning Staff Officer and serves as a core team member for **FOREST PLAN REVISION**. Primary responsibility includes coordination, technical support and advice on recreation management for the Forest planning effort. Gathering information and assisting in writing both the Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are critical duties.

The incumbent is expected to work on the Plan Revision for a period of 2-3 years. Duties may change at completion of the Plan.

The Forest began its revision efforts in October, 2000 and is currently completing the existing condition assessment. Alternative development began in late August, 2002.



The Forest:

The Bighorn National Forest, containing 1,107,671 acres, is located in the Big Horn Mountain Range in north central Wyoming. The mountains are an isolated range rising from about 4,000 feet to 13,165 feet above sea level at the summit of Cloud Peak. The Forest is 80 miles long and 30 miles wide and lies within 4 counties: Big Horn, Johnson, Sheridan, and

Washakie. There are 2,834 miles of streams and 5,200 acres of lakes. In 1985, 189,000 acres of Forest land was set aside for wilderness management (Cloud Peak Wilderness).

The Forest contains 32 developed campgrounds, 14 picnic areas, 2 major visitor centers, 7 lodges, 264 recreation residences, 1,200 miles of trail and 3 Scenic Byways. We administer over 500 special use permits including communication sites, reservoirs, easements, power lines, outfitter guides and campground concession operations.

The Forest is approximately midway between Yellowstone and Mount Rushmore National Parks. The area has year-round recreation opportunities. There are 2 small ski areas, several Nordic Ski trail systems, and over 300 miles of groomed snowmobile trails.

In addition, we permit the grazing of approximately 28,000 cattle and 21,000 sheep. We cut approximately 4.0 MBF of sawlogs and fuelwood. Wildlife are abundant with an estimated summer elk population of 11,000. Deer number over 35,000. Other larger species include moose, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain lion.

For a complete description of the Forest, including photos, see our WEB PAGE ([click](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/bighorn/)) at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/bighorn/>

We encourage you to express interest for this position. If you would like more information, please contact Joel Strong, Planning Staff

Officer at (307)-674-2645, 674-2600
(jstrong@fs.fed.us)



The Town:

Sheridan is situated in the eastern foothills of the Big Horn mountains. The population within the city limits is approximately 15,000 with 25,000 within Sheridan County. Other nearby communities include Dayton, Ranchester, Story, and Big Horn. Sheridan is the County Seat. Sheridan County is rich in western history -- once the prize hunting grounds for the Plains Indians. Billings, Montana, and Casper, Wyoming, are about a two hour drive, and the Black Hills and Yellowstone National Park are 3-4 hours to the east/west respectively.

Sheridan is a full service community with a modern hospital, numerous physicians, restaurants, and various shopping opportunities. There are 30 churches of every denomination. Downtown is the location for most speciality shops (70 retail businesses), restaurants and movie theaters. Four grocery stores serve the community. K-Mart and Wal-Mart have department stores here as well.

Sheridan has 5 elementary schools (grades K-5), 1 central middle school (grades 6-7), 1 junior high (grades 8-9), and one high school (grades 10-12). There is also Sheridan Community College, a two-year college offering a variety of credit and non-credit educational opportunities.

The community is very active in providing youth activities. The city has a recreation department with such activities as football, baseball, basketball, volleyball and softball. The city is in the process of developing a multi-use trail system. Sheridan also boasts a modern and newly-expanded YMCA, providing activities for all ages. The community has an excellent library (over 70,000 titles). The WYO Theater in downtown Sheridan offers a variety of plays, musical talent, and other entertainment activities.

Sheridan has available housing either for rent or purchase, however real estate values have risen sharply in the last several years. Property

taxes are generally low, with **NO** State or local income taxes.

For more information contact the Chamber of Commerce at [\(click\)](#)

<http://www.sheridanwyo.com/>



The Weather:

The weather in Sheridan is somewhat typical for the northern Rockies region, with fairly cold winters and warm summers. Wintertime highs average in the mid-30's, with occasional cold snaps dropping the mercury below zero. Summertime highs generally range from the mid-80's to mid-90's, cooling off considerably at night. The community is about 3,700 feet in elevation (relatively low for Wyoming), and generally does not receive the winds that other parts of the State experience. Precipitation averages about 15 inches per year with most falling in the form of snow (72 inches per year). Average growing season is 119 days.

