

Subcommittee on Federal Lands
Tom McClintock, Chairman
Hearing Memorandum

May 9, 2016

To: All Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Spencer Kimball
Subcommittee on Federal Lands, x 6-7736

Hearing: Legislative hearing on H.R. 3839 (Rep. Kristi Noem), To transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes.
May 12, 2016 at 10:00 AM; 1324 Longworth HOB.

H.R. 3839 (Rep. Kristi Noem), “*Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act*”

Bill Summary

H.R. 3839, introduced by Congresswoman Kristi Noem (R-SD-AL), transfers administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

Invited Witnesses

Panel I

The Honorable Kristi Noem (R-SD-AL)

Panel II

Ms. Abbie Jossie

Acting Assistant Director, National Landscape Conservation System & Community Partnerships
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D.C.

Background

The Black Hills National Cemetery (Cemetery) opened in 1948 and covers approximately 100 acres of land managed by the National Cemetery Administration. The Cemetery houses a memorial carillon and a memorial to Korean War veterans that was dedicated in 2002. In

addition, Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Charles Windolph and many other notable veterans are buried in the Cemetery.¹

H.R. 3839 permanently transfers jurisdictional authority of approximately 200 acres of undeveloped federal land outside Sturgis, South Dakota from the BLM to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to expand the Cemetery. With its existing acreage, the Cemetery can accommodate only a finite number of additional burials; transferring the BLM land, which is adjacent to the Cemetery, to the VA will provide for burial space for hundreds of additional gravesites for future generations of veterans. Without the transfer, the National Cemetery Administration would be forced to close the Cemetery to further burials in the near future. Without legislation to make the transfer permanent, federal law limits an administrative transfer of the land from BLM to the VA to just 20 years.

Administration Position

The Administration position is unknown at this time; however, in April 2016, the BLM indicated it supports a similar bill, S. 2223, offered by Sen. John Thune (R-SD), during a legislative hearing hosted by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests.²

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

¹ [Black Hills National Cemetery Information Page](#). National Cemetery Administration.

² Statement of Mike Pool Acting Deputy Director Bureau of Land Management Department of the Interior Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests on S. 2223, Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act. April 21, 2016.

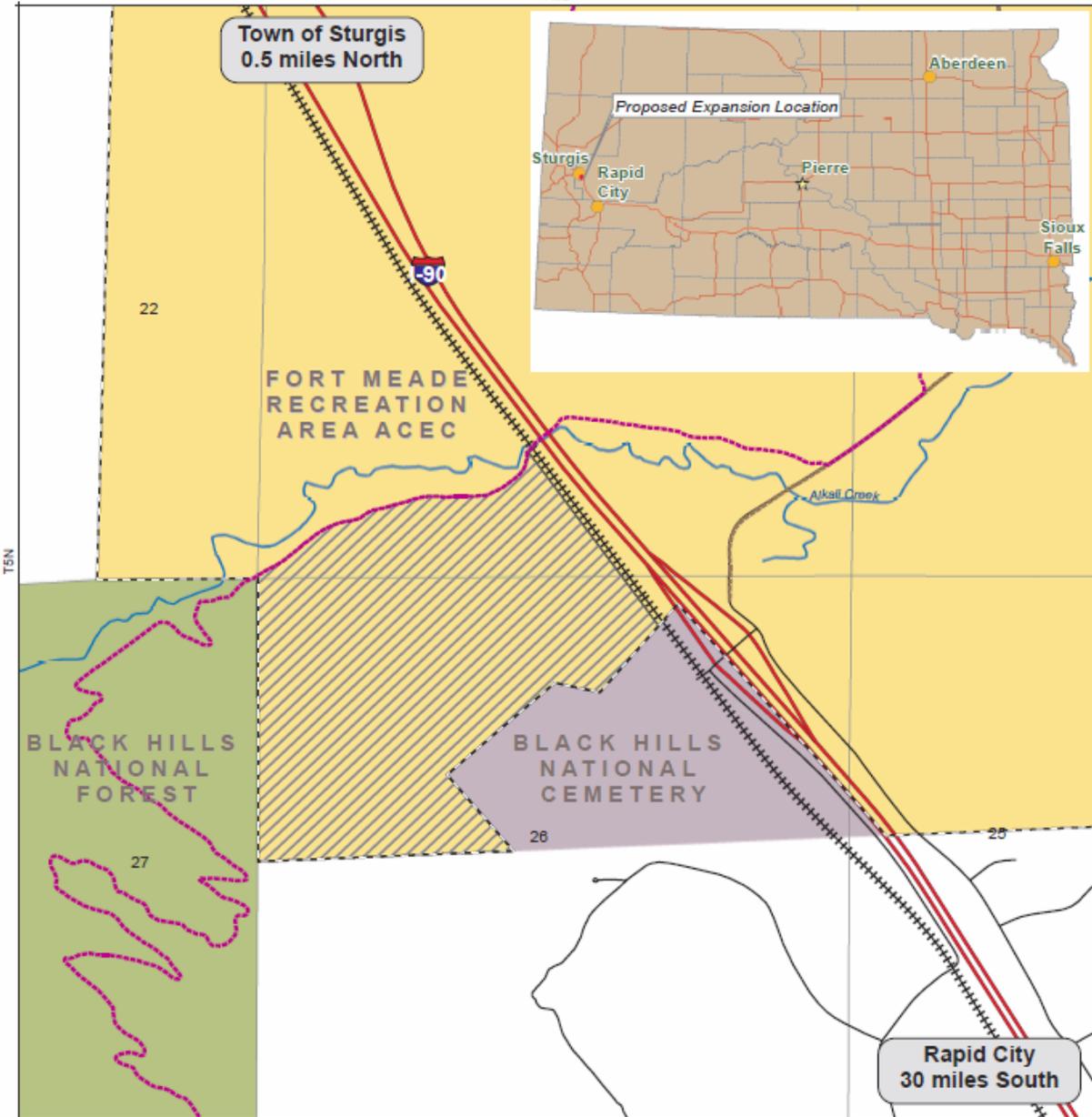


Proposed Expansion of Black Hills National Cemetery - South Dakota

September 28, 2015

Prepared at the Request of Representative Kristi Noem

RSE



- Proposed National Cemetery Expansion
- Centennial Trail (State Hiking and Biking Trail)
- Fort Meade Back Country Byway
- Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC

- Surface Management Agencies
- Bureau of Land Management
 - National Park Service
 - Private Lands
 - US Forest Service



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Albers
Geographic Coordinate System: GCS North American 1983
Datum: D North American 1983

0 0.125 0.25 Miles

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.