

Sylvan Lake Area Master Plan

- Preliminary Recommendations
- November, 2019



Purpose of Plan

- Sustain and improve the area's natural systems while accommodating existing visitation and without expanding short term visitor capacity.
- Consider visitor expectations and observations.



Participants

- SD Game Fish and Parks Department
- General Public
- Concessionaire
- CSP and GF&P Working Group:
 - Matt Snyder
 - Al Nedved
 - Lydia Austin
 - Jayme Severyn
 - Travis Theilen
 - Mark Hendrix
 - Kobee Stalder
 - Lindsey Cederberg
- Consultant Team:
 - Wyss Associates, Inc., prime consultant, with:
 - Dan Wenk
 - Chamberlain Architects
 - The Collaborative Inc.
 - Ferber Engineering



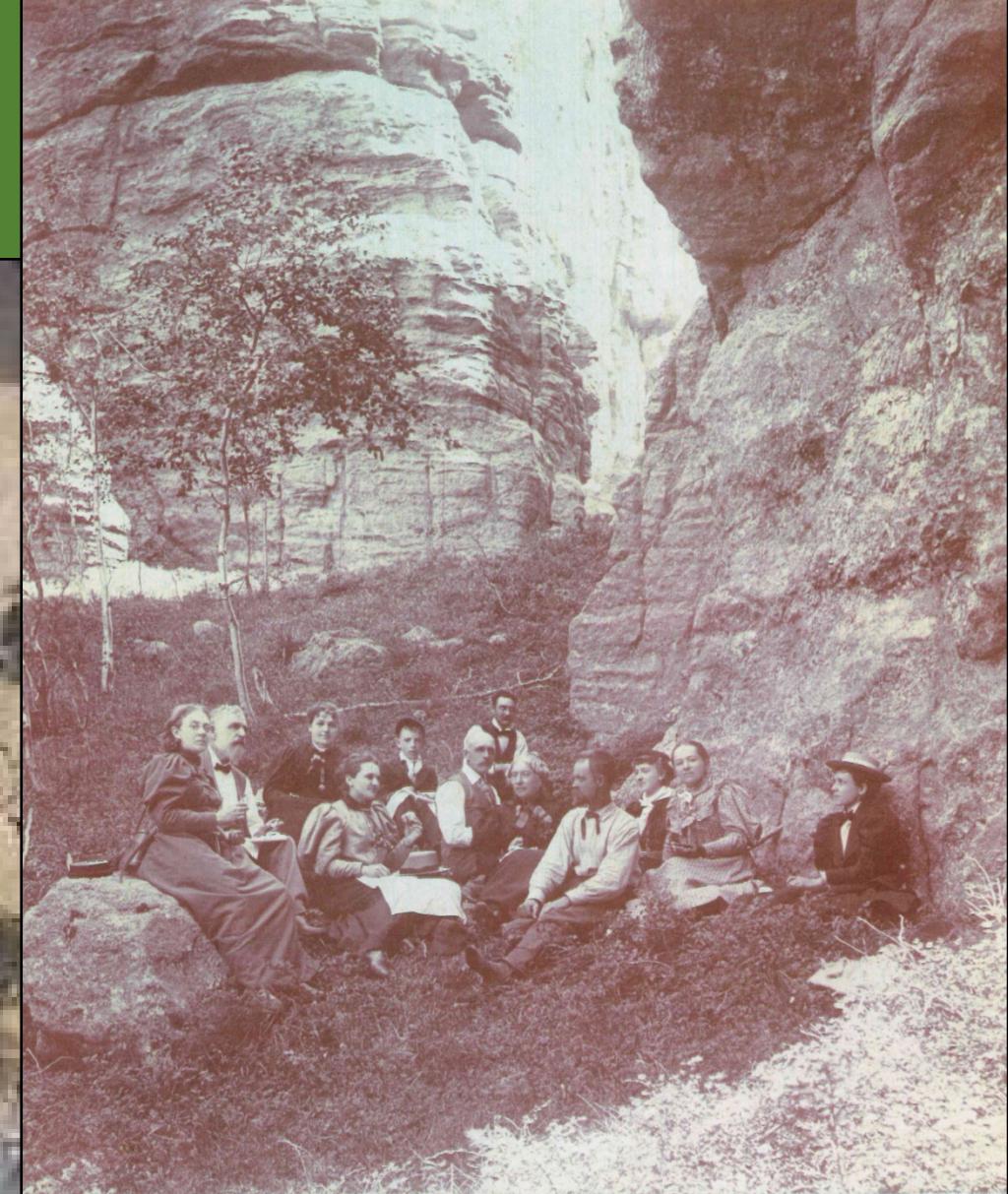
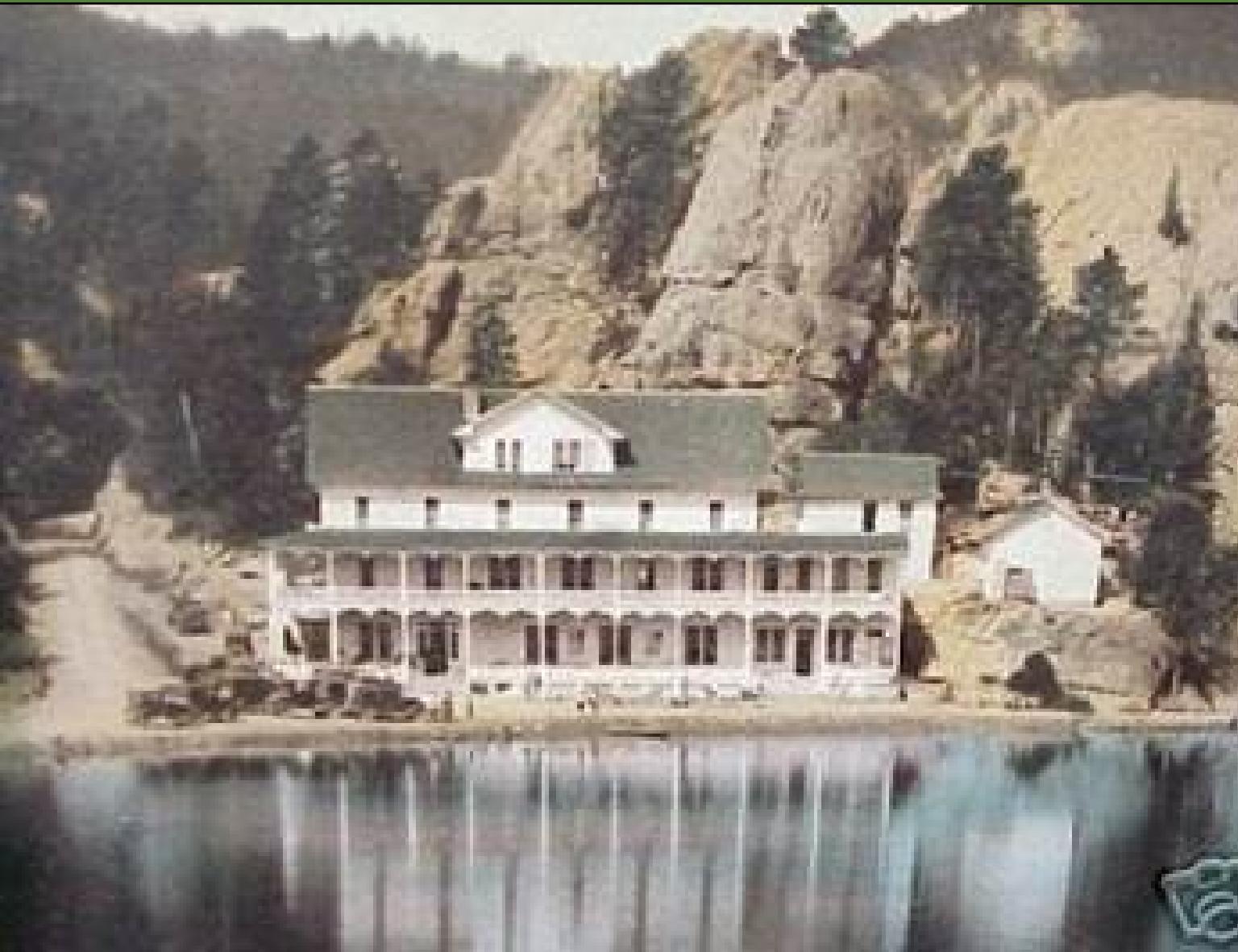
Study Process

- Site Evaluation and Understanding
- Public Input
- Preliminary Recommendations
- -----
- Public Input
- Final Recommendations
- Public Input
- Plan Review and Approval by Commission



Plan Background and Park History

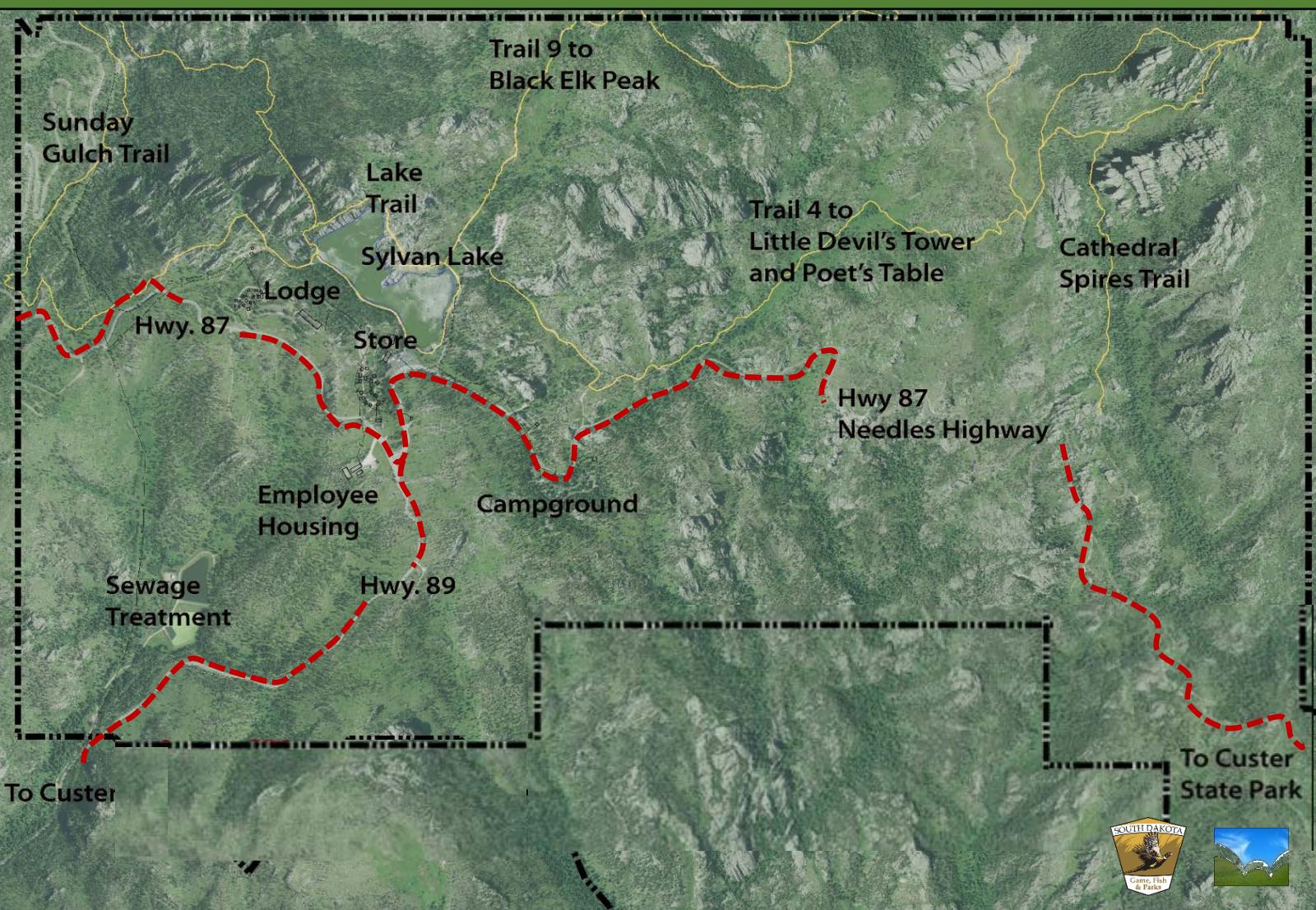
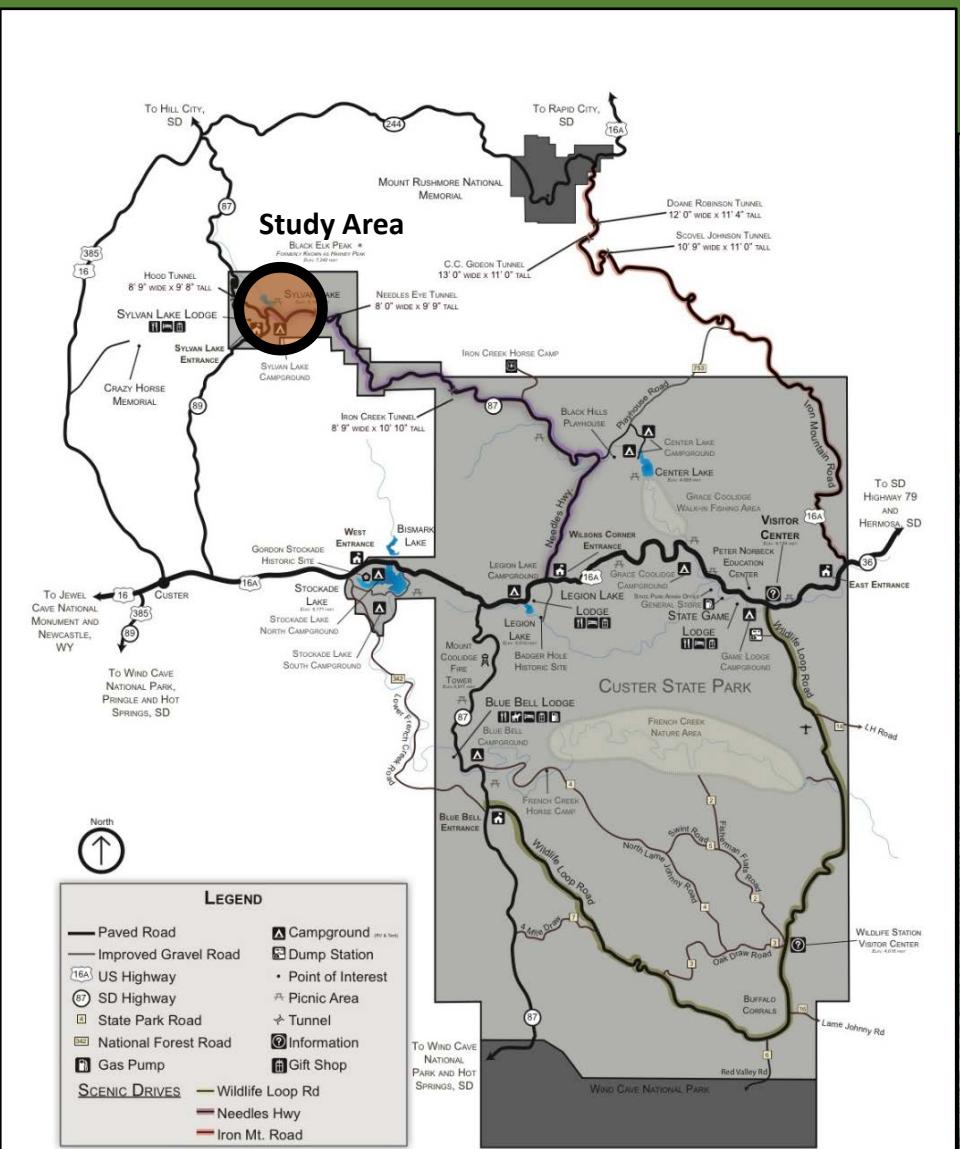
Historical Photos courtesy of Margie Helgason



THE LADY THIRD FROM THE RIGHT WAS MY AUNT IMOGENE REDER. THE ONLY OTHER ONE I CAN IDENTIFY IS THE GENTLEMAN, CENTER FRONT, J.C. SPENCER, WHO HELPED THEODORE REDER FINANCE THE PROJECT.

MARY MORSANNY, DAUGHTER OF J. C. SPENCER, RESIDES IN CUSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA. SHE IS 90 YEARS OLD. SHE IDENTIFIED HER FATHER FOR ME.

Study Area



Study Area

Cathedral Spires Trail



Cathedral Spires



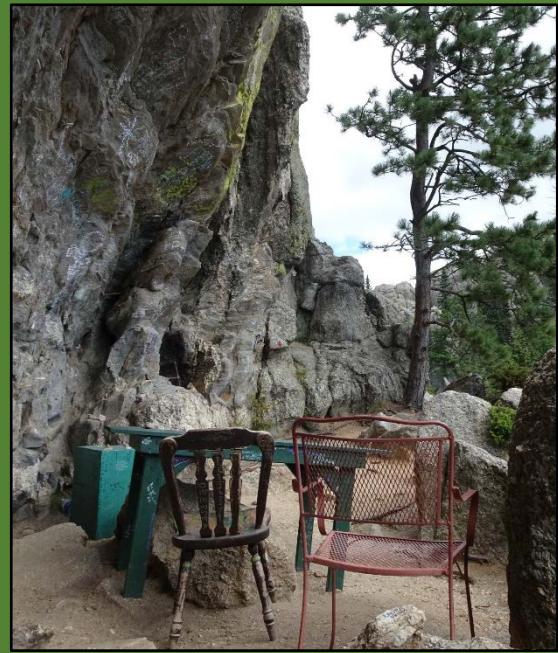
Day Use Area



Lake Loop Trail



Sylvan Lake Lodge



Little Devil's Tower and Poet's Table Trail



Campground



Sunday Gulch Trail



Trail 9 to Black Elk Peak



Public Participation

- Open Houses, in Custer and Rapid City
- Survey Monkey, over 640 responses
- Facebook Comments
- Website Comments



We need your input!
Help us decide the priorities for the Sylvan Lake Area.

Sylvan Lake Area Master Plan
Custer State Park

Public Workshops

Monday, July 22nd
5 to 7 pm
Custer Courthouse Annex
Pine Room
447 Crook Street
Custer, SD

Thursday, July 25th
5 to 7 pm
The Outdoor Campus
Aldo Leopold Room
Adventure Trail
Rapid City, SD

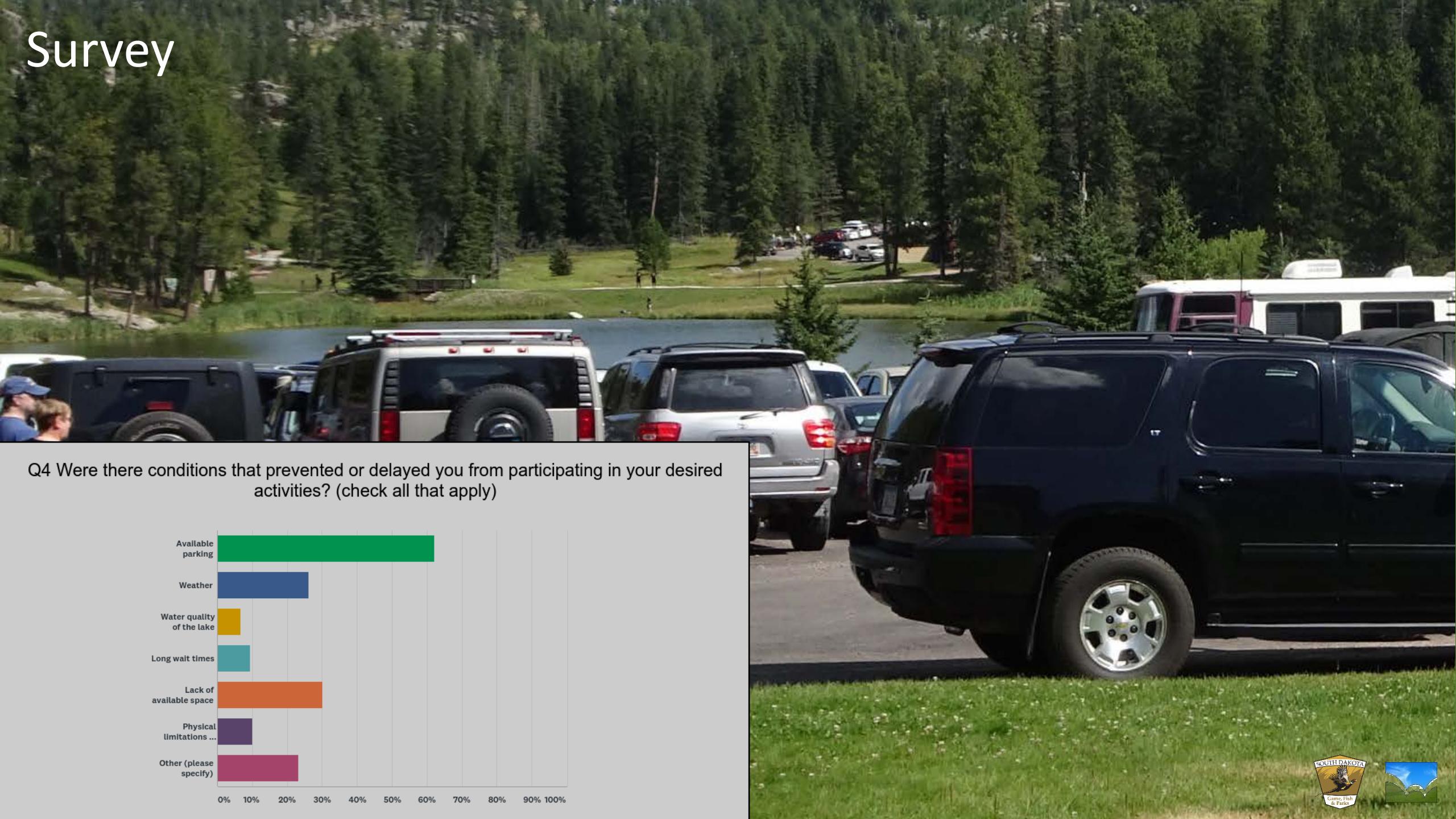
The purpose of this first meeting will be to discuss with the public your opinions about the use of and the facilities at Sylvan Lake in Custer State Park.

We also invite you to a survey at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SylvanLakeAreaMP>

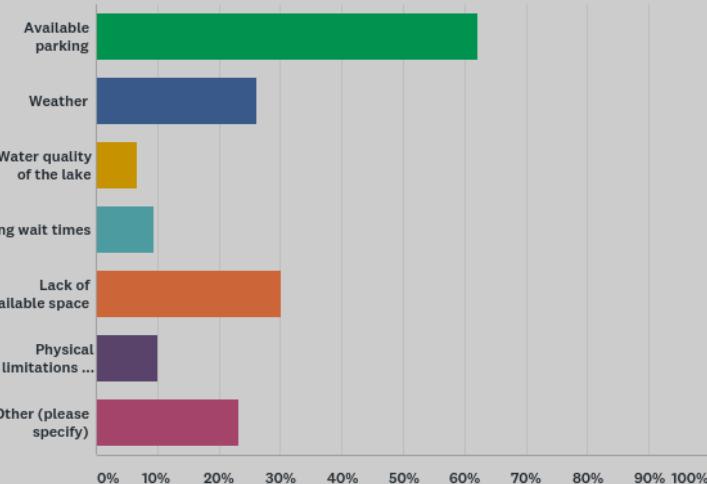
Please RSVP to Melissa at Wyss Associates, Inc.:
admin@wyssassociates.com or (605) 348-2268



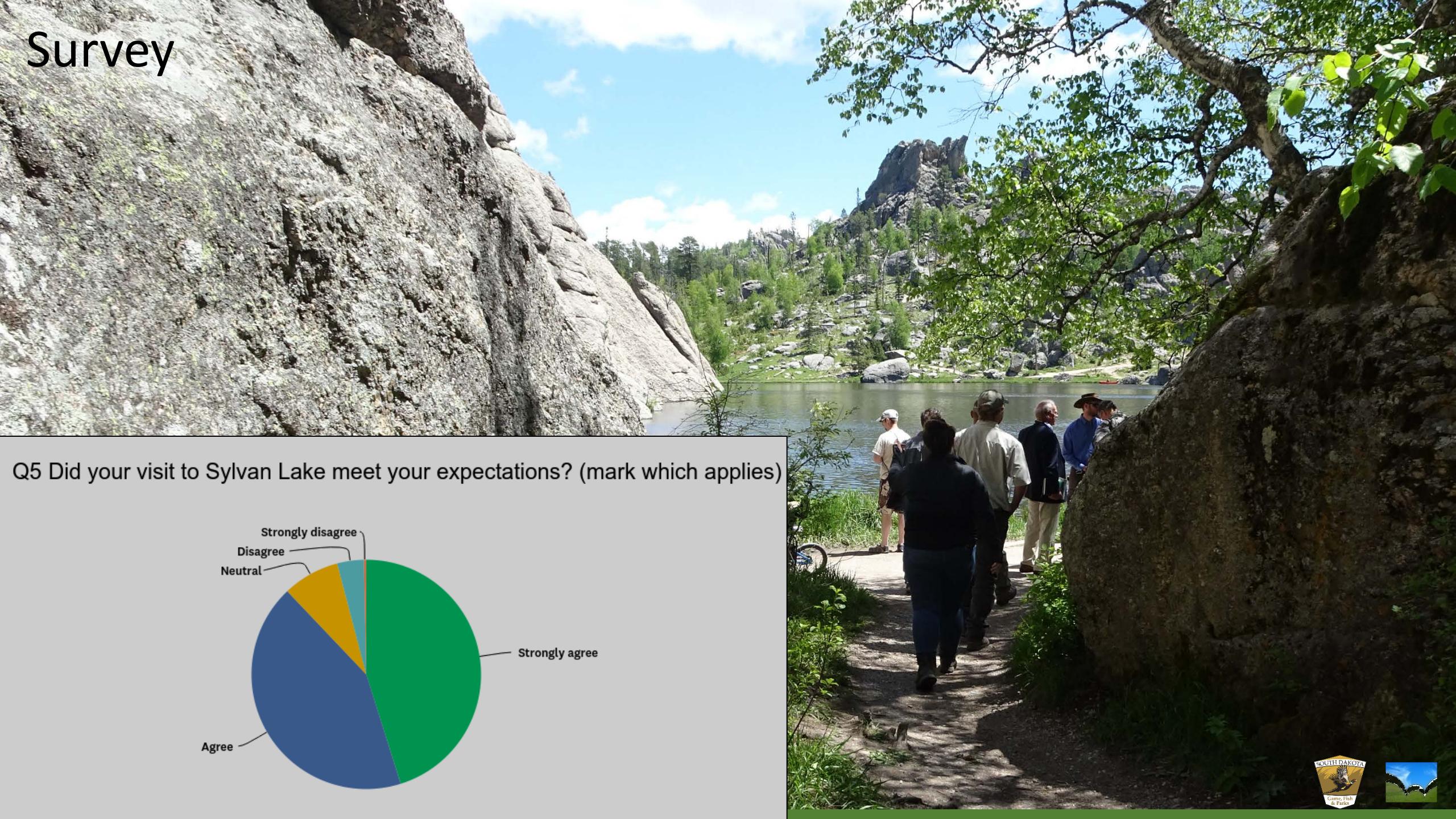
Survey



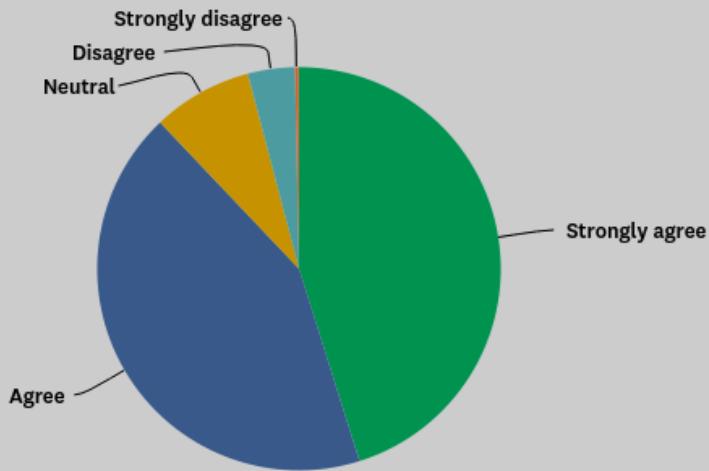
Q4 Were there conditions that prevented or delayed you from participating in your desired activities? (check all that apply)



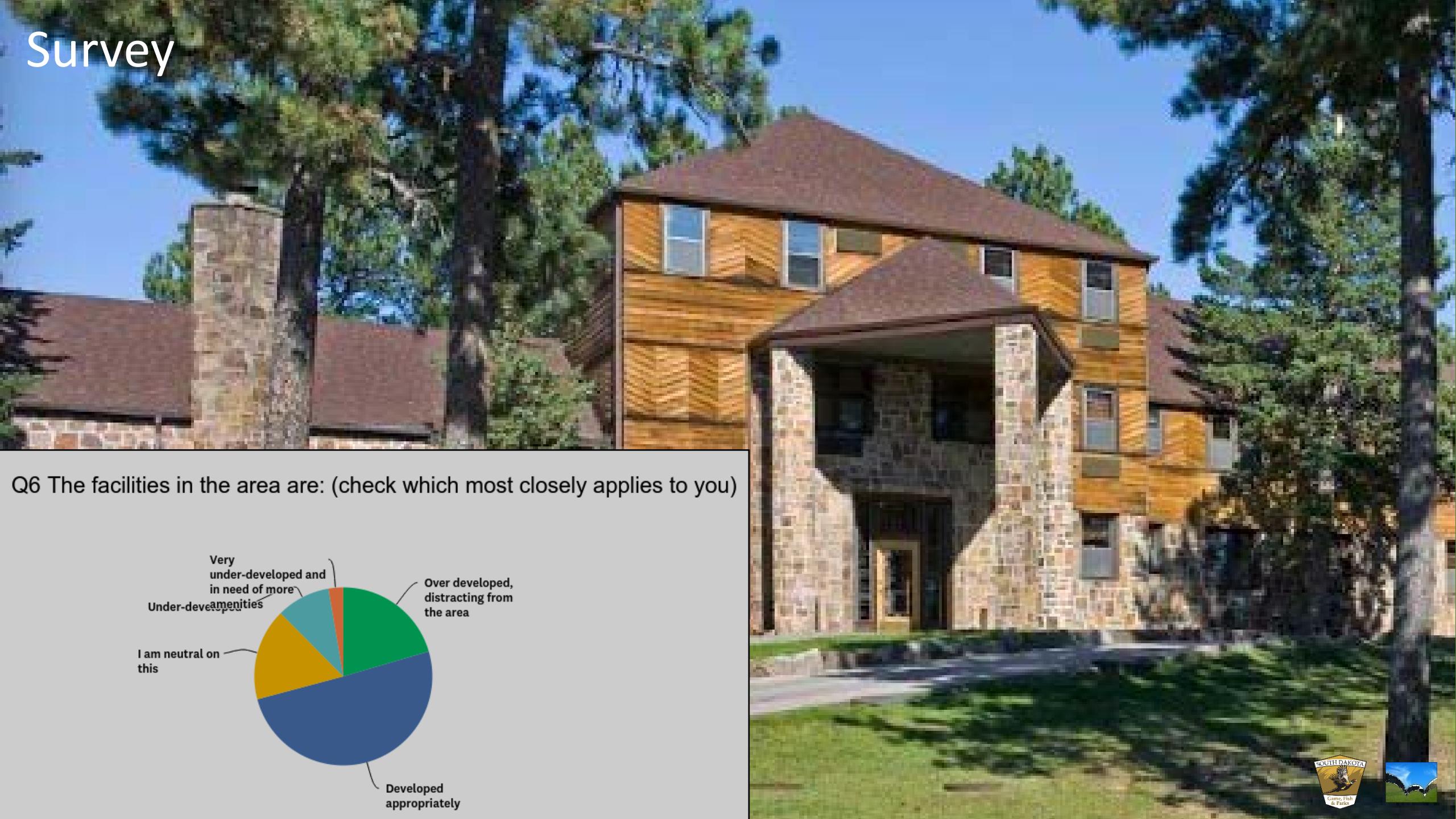
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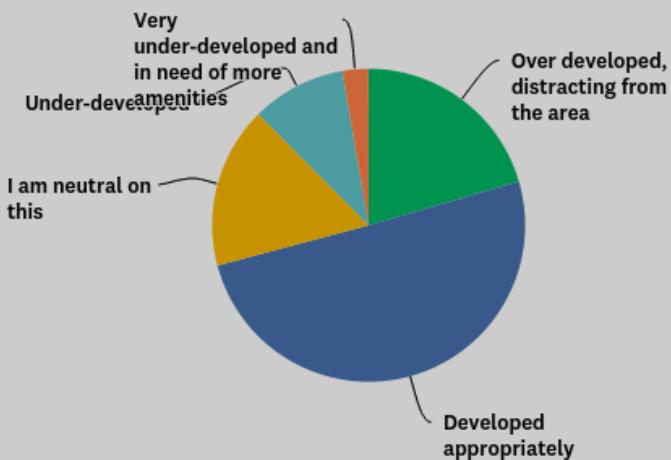
Q5 Did your visit to Sylvan Lake meet your expectations? (mark which applies)



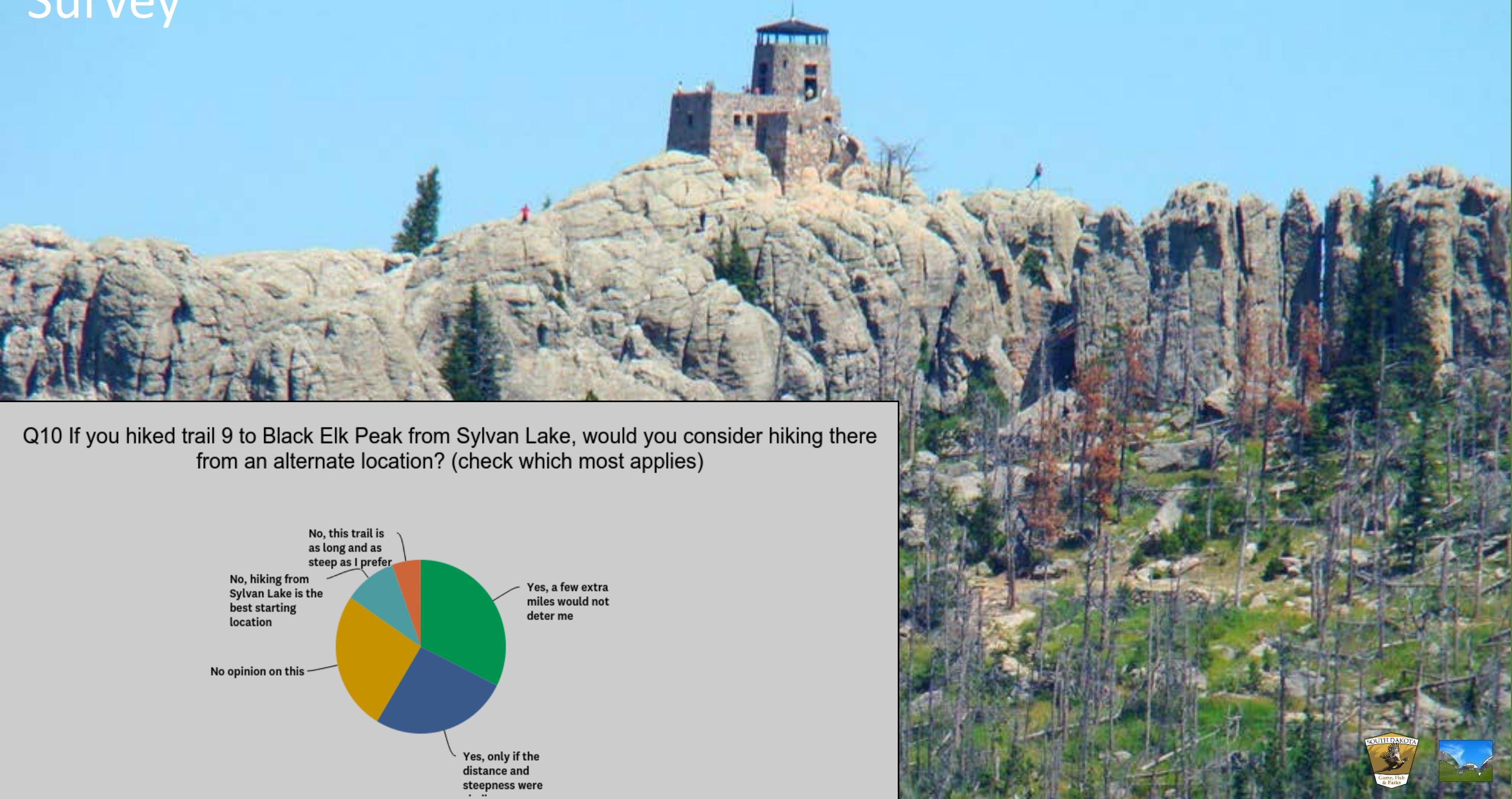
Survey



Q6 The facilities in the area are: (check which most closely applies to you)



Survey



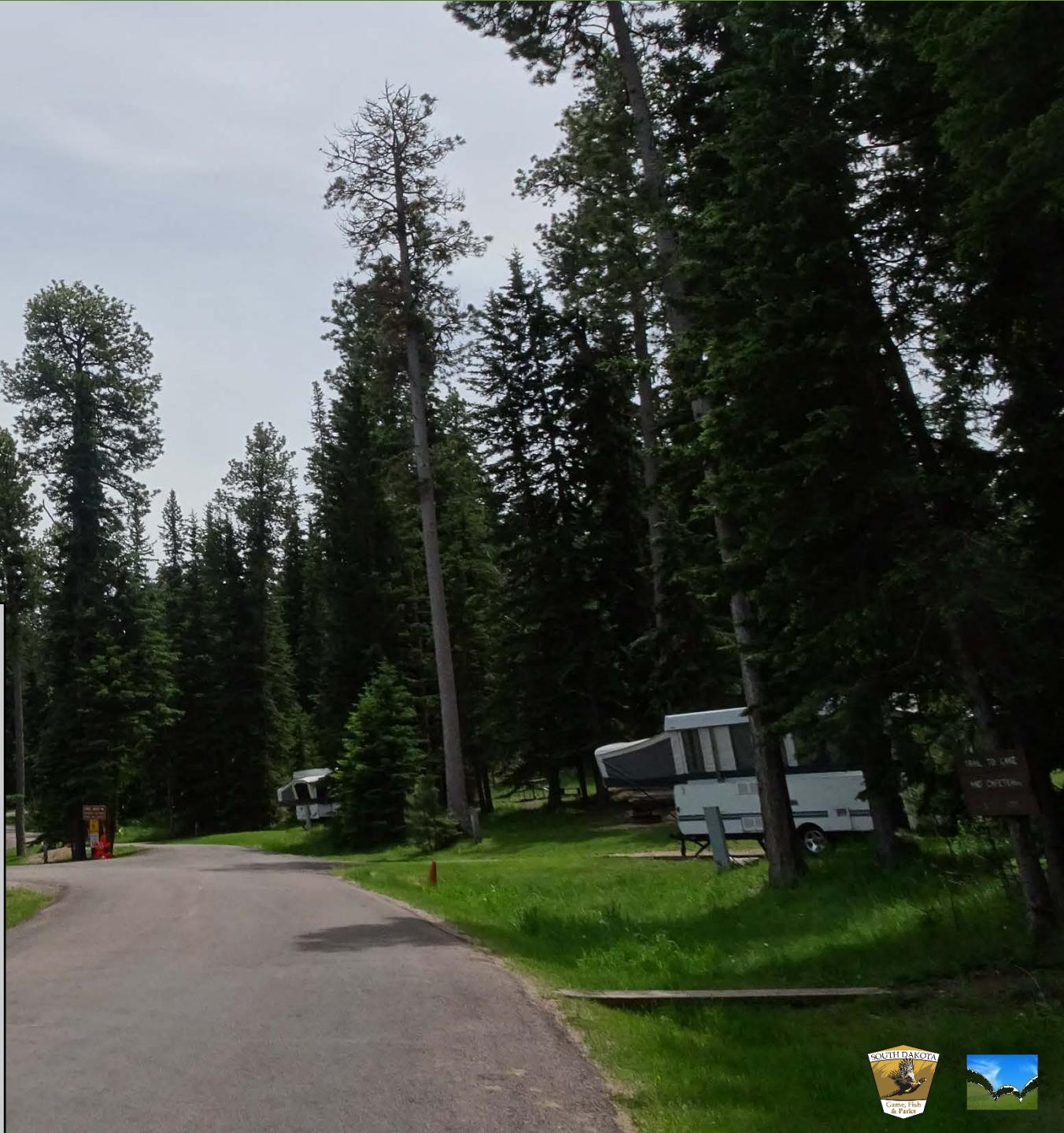
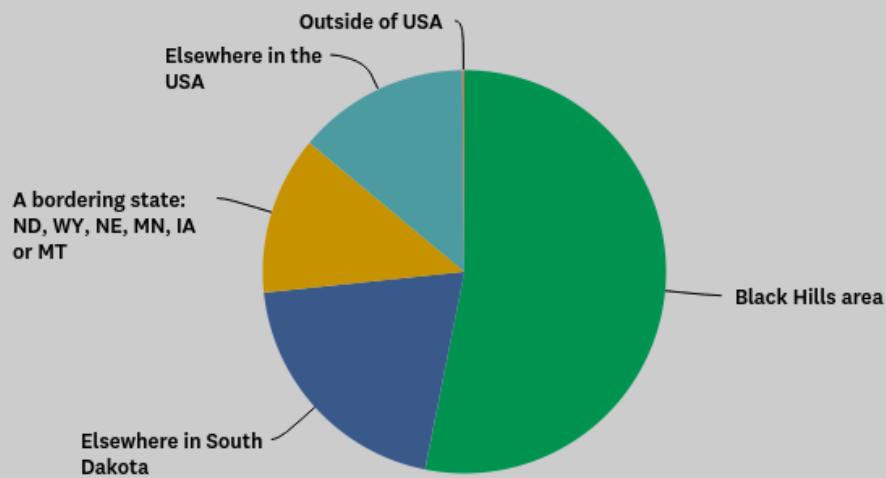
Q10 If you hiked trail 9 to Black Elk Peak from Sylvan Lake, would you consider hiking there from an alternate location? (check which most applies)



Survey



Q11 Please mark the location of your primary residence:



Public Participation Results

- Critical Issues
 - Parking Everywhere
 - Overcrowding
 - Protect Natural Setting
 - Repair Erosion
 - Consider Impact of Wedding Venue
 - Trail Degradation
 - Abundance of Social Trails
 - ADA and Ease of Access
 - Restroom Location and Quality
- Visitor limitations are not a consideration at this time

*Opportunity to
experience nature is
primary motive for
visiting Sylvan Lake.*



Public Participation

- Additional Issues
 - Trail Difficulty for Elderly
 - Signage, Wayfinding
 - Area Interpretation and History
 - Many other Detailed Observations



Preliminary Recommendations

Visitor Management options, short term:

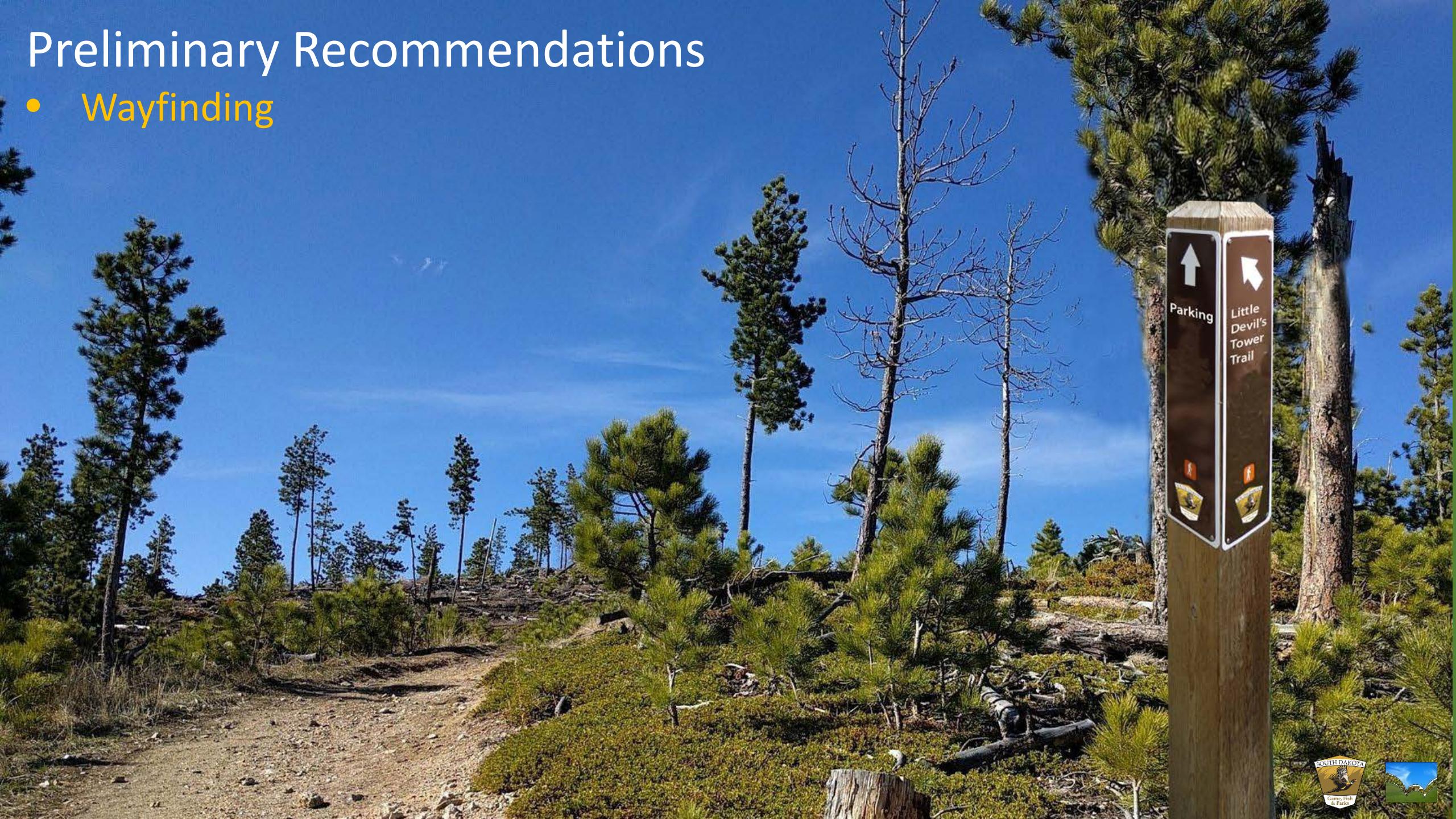
No change from Current, or

- Institute user friendly policies that protect the natural system and park beauty, such as:
- Provide consistent trail wayfinding signage
- In selected areas, stay on designated trails (but not everywhere) such as
 - Sunday Gulch, area below spillway.
 - North end of Lake Trail over rocky slopes.
- Provide required ADA access from store to boat docks and west side of Lake Trail
- Adopt policy for new group activities.
- Adopt policy for drone usage, currently under study by SD GF&P
- Rock Climbing Policy updates needed to multi-agency Rock Climbing Management Plan.



Preliminary Recommendations

- Wayfinding



Preliminary Recommendations for Consideration

- **Defined walkway to Lodge**



Current



Proposed



Preliminary Recommendations

- **Venue Locations**



Preliminary Recommendations

- **Venue Location**



Current



Preliminary Recommendations

Parking Capacity options, short term:

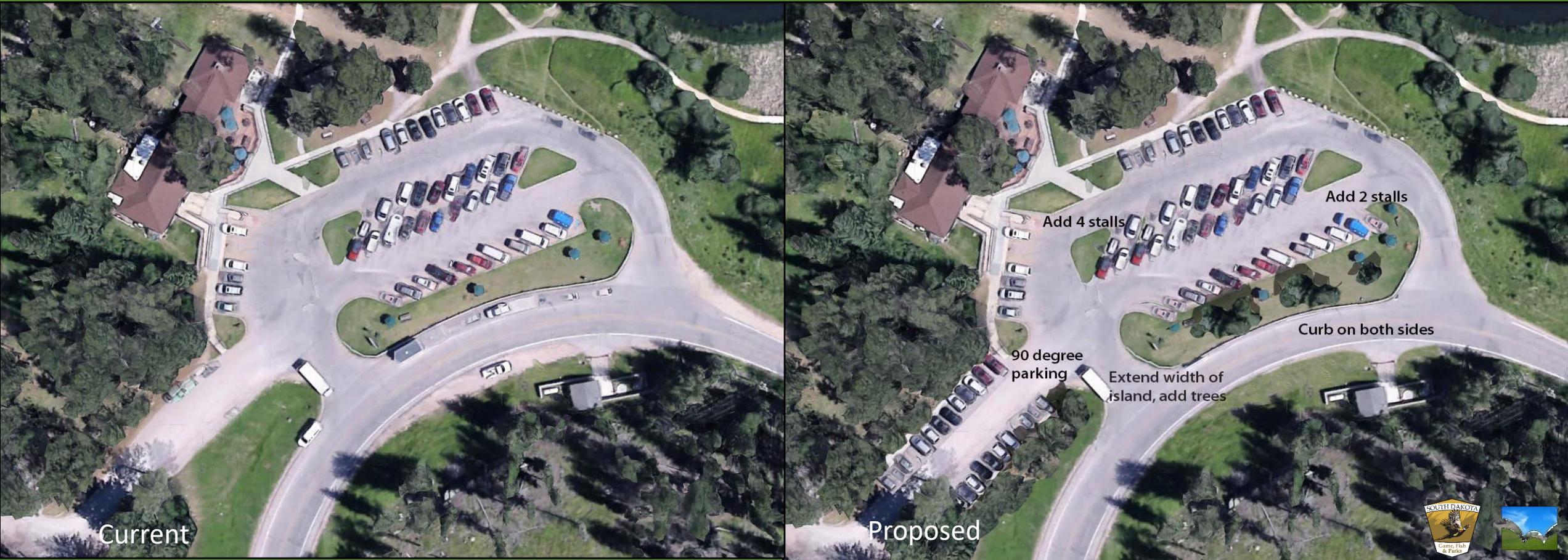
No change from Current, or

- Institute user friendly policies that protect the natural system and park beauty, such as:
 - Park cars only in designated parking areas
 - Reconfigure existing parking areas to increase parking efficiency, combined with
 - No parking on roadways, which would be curbed.
 - Determine enforcement policies, combined with physical modifications such as curbing.
- Reduce parking demand by:
 - Build a well designed and maintained trail from the Lodge to the Lake.
 - Promote other exceptional trail opportunities in other areas of Custer State Park
 - Encourage the use of alternate trails to Black Elk Peak
 - Explore potential of park and shuttle from Hill City and Custer to the park
 - Promote use of Centennial Trail from Legion Lake to Sylvan Lake
 - Promote car pooling throughout the park
 - Investigate open air shuttle throughout the park
 - Permit concessionaire the ability to utilize an 8-12 person golf cart valet service
 - Quantifying these measures could be done at a later date with traffic engineering models



Preliminary Recommendations

- **Parking**



Preliminary Recommendations

- **Trail Facility Considerations, short term:**

- No Change from Current, or
- Provide an elevated boardwalk over low area between day use parking and the beach area
- Allow individual exploration in conjunction with clear wayfinding signage
- Prioritize trail rehabilitation in the heavily used Sylvan Lake area
- New loop trail using portions of Trail 4, connecting campground to lake.
- Rope off selected redundant social trails for area reclamation, in particular:
 - Sunday Gulch Trails below the spillway
 - Parallel trails over rocky area at North side of Lake Trail
 - Reclaim abundance of social trails such as:
 - Above Sylvan Lake and below the Lodge
 - Cathedral Spires trail area
 - Rock climbing access trails



Preliminary Recommendations

- Reclaim Redundant Trails



Current



Proposed



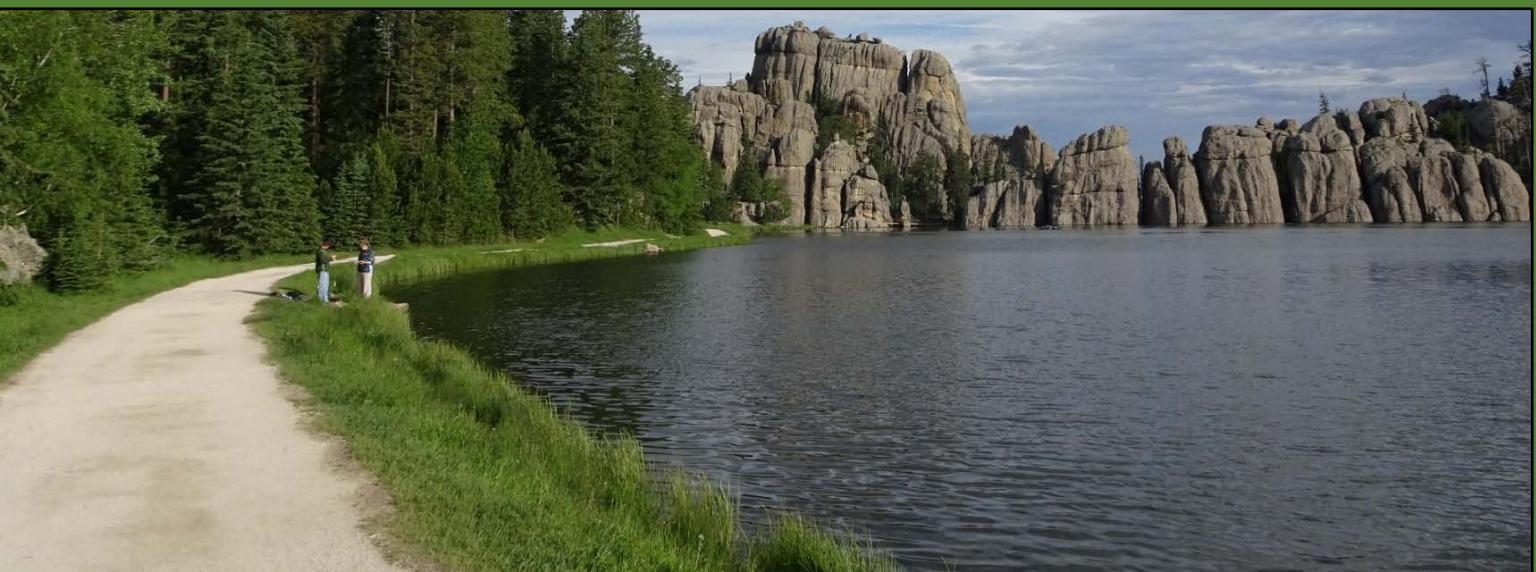
Preliminary Recommendations

- Connecting Trail from Lodge to Lake



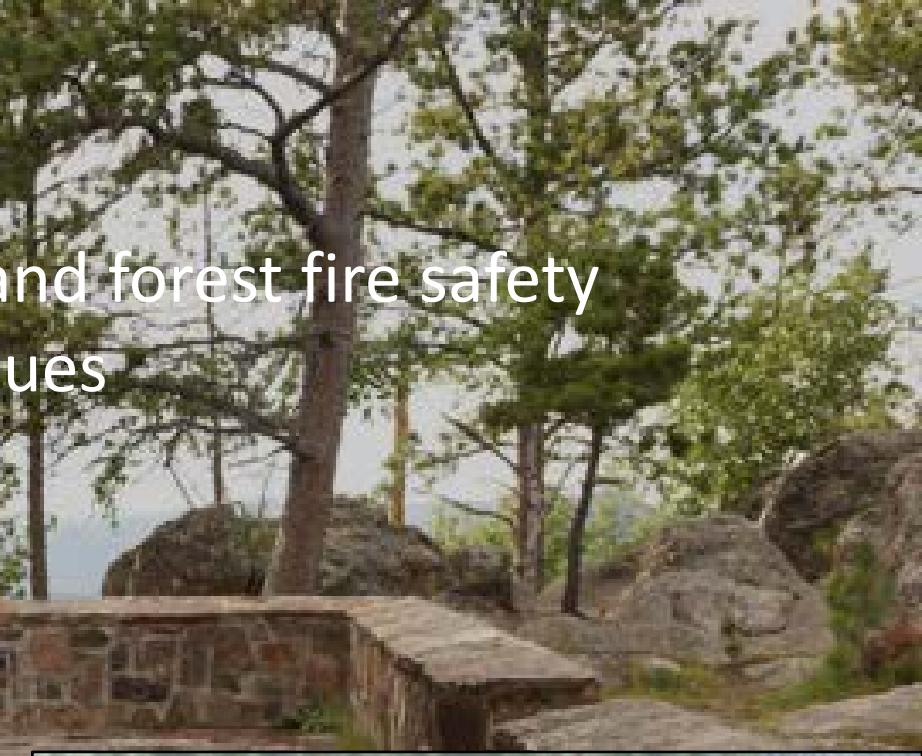
Preliminary Recommendations

- Trail Maintenance and Upkeep
- Trail Difficulty Clarification

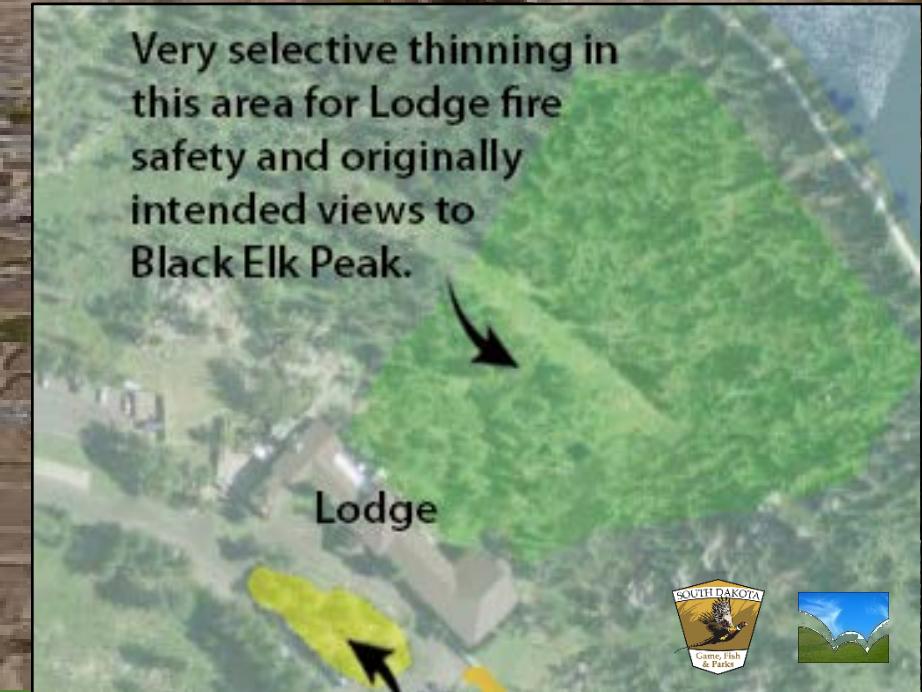


Preliminary Recommendations

- Sylvan Lake Lodge and Cabins
 - Lodge Landscape: sidewalk safety, ADA, View and forest fire safety
 - Lodge Building Exterior: array of small scale issues
 - Address life/safety/health issues
 - Lodge Interior:
 - Hallways need renovation
 - Lobby needs restoration



Very selective thinning in this area for Lodge fire safety and originally intended views to Black Elk Peak.



Preliminary Recommendations

- Safe Highway Entrance



Preliminary Recommendations

- Additional Considerations
 - New Restrooms at Beach
 - Remove Fountain Equipment from Lake
 - Needles Highway, not in this project scope
 - Improve resort highway entrance appearance
 - Safe pedestrian road crossings
 - Trail difficulty clarification
 - Erosion and sediment control



Preliminary Recommendations

- Additional Considerations
 - Overhead Lines at Cabins, put Underground



Current



Proposed



Preliminary Recommendations

- Erosion Control
 - Area Drainage
 - Sediment



Preliminary Recommendations

- **Some Long-Term Considerations:**

- Provide electric charging stations in parking areas for future vehicles
- Provide improved Wi-Fi in the area
- Reconstruct Day-Use access road by moving it to base of hill with curbs to increase lake edge landscape area.
- Redirect above noted road rainwater runoff to silt detention area to protect lake water quality
- Survey lake bottom contours for baseline data to determine potential future lake water protection
- Address Lodge Conditions
- Address Erosion and sediment control
- Identify future demand, if possible



Long Term Considerations

- Day Use Access Road



Current



Proposed



Long Term Considerations

- Trails and Parking



Thank You

