

**DOCUMENTATION OVERVIEW OF SWEETGRASS ACCESS TO NFS LANDS,  
4/23/02:**

**The following is a chronological overview of pertinent information regarding the historical nature of access and attempts to secure this access.**

Early GLO Plats show a road up the Sweetgrass in the same general locale as existing "private" access road now located off NFS lands. These plats appear to predate patenting and Northern Pacific Railroad (NPRR) land grants.

2/12/1904: lands temporarily withdrawn from settlement, entry, sale or disposal for the proposed Crazy Mountains Forest Reserve.

8/10/1906: Presidential Proclamation, Crazy Mountains NF (appears to more or less correspond with current forest boundary). Our status records show 8/19/1906 as the date in which land was reserved from Public Domain.

7/1/1908: Crazy Mountains NF becomes part of the Absaroka National Forest by Executive Order.

c. 1919-1930: Grants from US to Northern Pacific Railroad, includes most odd number sections.

After land grants to NPRR: Various deeds from NPRR deed ownership of odd number sections to private parties. Most include a clause reserving to the public existing roads.

Sometime in the early part of the twentieth century a large fire took place in Sweet Grass drainage.

2/7/27: Sweet Grass County Road Viewers recommend not granting road petition for Sweet Grass Road.

1929-1938: The first school in Sweetgrass Canyon was started in 1929 at the Ward and Parker sawmill, presumably in Section 9, T4N, R12E. From there, it moved to the Brannin Ranch (Section 2, T4N, R12E) back to the sawmill for several years running. In the summer of 1933, the first real schoolhouse was built half way between Brannins and Ward and Parkers (presumably in Section 10, T4N, R12E on NFS lands). This was called the Bachelor School because it was built by several bachelors. It was located in School District #4 and operated until 1938.

8/4/1930: Letter to Mr. Ward and Mr. Parker, inholders of Section 9, T4N, R12E in Sweetgrass drainage from G. E. Martin, Forest Supervisor: This letter explains that the FS maintains "only a trail thru the Forest up Sweet Grass Canyon." It goes on to state that "there is no objection to private individuals improving this trail to the point where it can be used for either wagons or automobiles.... The Forest Service is distinctly interested in keeping all existing trails open for horse travel, and aggressive action will be