

Nancy Hilding
President
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P.O. Box 788
Black Hawk, SD 57718
June 9th, 2023

Black Hills National Forest,
Northern Hills Ranger District

RE: Silver Creek Riparian Restoration Project

Prairie Hills Audubon Society is highly supportive of this project and we will write another letter to praise it.

This letter is to point out what we think is an error about the comment deadline on your on-line commenting page: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public//CommentInput?Project=64119>
This on-line page says: “Your comments are requested through 6/9/2023 11:59:59 PM (Mountain Standard Time).”

The scoping letter says to comment within 30 days of the date of the letter, which was dated May 11th, 2023. 30 days from the date of the letter is June 10th. June 10th is a Saturday so under the normal Forest Service’s day-counting rules - that would move the deadline to next working day, which is Monday, the 12th of June.

We hope you will honor all comments up till midnight on 6/12/23. However as this is scoping not an objection, we are not sure how important the exact deadline is (especially over the weekend).

Below is 36 CFR 218. 6. This is about process for counting days for objections, not scoping, but we imagine the processes for objections are more finicky/exacting than scoping:

§ 218.6 Computation of time periods.

(a) **Computation.** All time periods are computed using calendar days, including Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays. However, when the time period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the time is extended to the end of the next Federal working day as stated in the legal notice (11:59 p.m. in the time zone of the receiving office for objections filed by electronic means such as email or facsimile).

(b) **Starting date.** The day after publication of the legal notice required by [§ 218.7\(c\)](#) is the first day of the objection-filing period.

(c) **Publication date.** The publication date of the legal notice of the EA or final EIS in the newspaper of record or, when the Chief is the responsible official, the Federal Register, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Objectors may not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

(d) **Extensions.** Time extensions are not permitted except as provided at [paragraph \(a\)](#) of this section, and [§ 218.26\(b\)](#).

Sincerely,



Nancy Hilding, President, Prairie Hills Audubon Society