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% Spruce Project, BH Sierra Group

To: Matt Daley, Forest Service

From: BH Sierra Group Ex Com Kirman,
Sandra Feherger

The Black Hills Sierra Group of the Sierra Club thanks you for this opportunity to comment about the proposed Spruce Project in the BH National Forest.

These management proposals are on approximately 3,614 acres in mixed conifer stands.

The modified proposed action includes:

- 2493 acres overstory removal with reserves
- 831 ac. shelter wood
- 888 ac commercial thinning
- 720 ac group selection
- 682 ac. precommercial thinning

Associated road activities being proposed include:

- 241 miles temporary road construction and closures

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- 22 miles of road reconstruction,
and road maintenance.

Now, snippets from scientific
journal articles about Forest Logging
Practices and Climate Forest Changes
are my comment about the proposed
Spruce Project.

"In US forests, logging causes ten
times more CO₂ emissions than the
combined emissions from wild land
fire and tree mortality from drought
and native bark beetles."

"Logging in US forests causes 617
million tons of CO₂ emissions each year
with an additional 106 million tons of
indirect CO₂ emissions due to trans-
portation associated with logging."

"While US forests sequester 1.66
billion tons of CO₂ each year, logging
is preventing that figure from being
at least 36 percent higher because
of logging-related soil damage and
nutrient removal and the conversion
of mature forests to younger tree
plantations."

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"The overall impact of logging in US forests is more than 1 billion tons of CO₂ each year or about the same as the overall effect of coal production. The real carbon bomb is logging."

"Removing trees from the forest and incinerating them for energizing in biomass power facilities emit even more CO₂ than burning coal, for equal energy produced. The emission are about 65 percent worse than those from modern coal plants."

"Forest degradation (of natural forest due to timber harvesting) causes wide-spread loss of bird breeding habitat and population declines."

In summary:

"The best chance of mitigating change involves the protection of existing forests (proforestation), and the passive recovery of forests by allowing them to regrow naturally."

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As stated on page 1 of the
Black Hills National Timber
Program Review Report by 3rd Party
Proby/Lester 11/30/2024:

"The forests of the interior
Rockies have faced significant challenges
in the last 15 years."

President Biden executive
order directing the conservation of
mature and old growth forests is
why my comment on the proposed Spruce
cutting of old growth forest and
mature trees is to help you redirect
your BHTF funds to more towards
the healthy and mature forests.

Finally, I joyfully request school
children be invited into your
cutting and their tying yellow ribbons
around all the mature trees. They need
to know that we will be there for
their grandchildren.

Thank: Climate Forests!

Sincerely,

Phara Leitzinger

BHTF