

March 17, 2025

Steve Kozel, District Ranger
Northern Hills Ranger District
2014 North Main Street
Spearfish, SD 57783

Re: Buffalo Forest Health Project

Dear Mr. Kozel:

Thank you for the informative letter describing the Buffalo Forest Health Project.

I agree that pine encroachment into meadows should be addressed and stopped. In my opinion the competition between pine and aspen should be survival of the fittest. Pine trees once provided hundreds of jobs in the Black Hills National Forest. Now there are only two mills left of any size, The Neiman Mills at Hulett, WY and Spearfish, SD I have not seen a log truck in two years. The Forest is grossly overgrown creating conditions for bugs, disease and fire.

Aspen trees really don't create any jobs that I can think of. They are pretty to look at for two weeks in the fall.

I am all for a healthy forest. I would suggest that if your project goes forward and you put boots on the ground that your crews address noxious weeds in that area at the same time. Thistles are wide spread and out of control.

I would like to invite you to my location to observe and discuss a pine thinning project that took place a couple of years ago next to my property. I am totally puzzled and disappointed in it. Perhaps you could help me understand how this approach has a positive outcome. I could not support this method.

If you can spare the time I am usually around May through mid October at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. My mailing address is: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

These are my opinions and suggestions that I think your letter to me was hoping to get.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for helping our forest survive. Good luck with your project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DL Schroedermeier", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel L. Schroedermeier