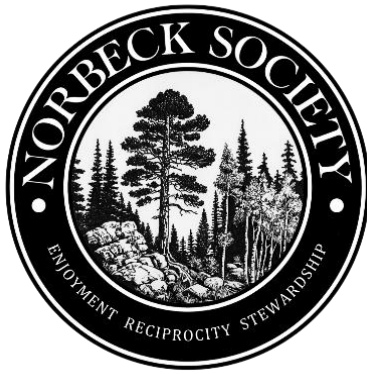




Norbeck Society
P. O. Box 9730
Rapid City, SD 57709

James Gubbels, District Ranger
Thawney Stottler, District Resource Planner
Mystic Ranger District
Black Hills National Forest
8221 South Mt. Rushmore Road
Rapid City, SD 57702
Submitted via <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/blackhills/?project=67518>

October 17, 2025

Re: Sawbuck Forest Management Project #67518

Dear Ranger Gubbels and Planner Stottler,

As part of our advocacy for sustainable use of public lands, Norbeck Society comments reflect a desire to support a management approach for the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) that recognizes the imperative of protecting and enhancing the biocomplexity of forest ecosystems that serve and support growing numbers of people. A vision for long-term sustainability of all aspects of this land is paramount.

We are holding our comments until the Government shutdown ends and you provide us with a new comment due date. We had less than 14 days to review the preliminary EA against the comments we provided back in February. As you know, we provided substantive comments during the scoping comment period and identified actions that, as proposed, are incongruent with Law, Regulation, and Policy. These are related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Habitat Structural Stages (HSS), Management Indicator Species (MIS), Culmination of Annual Mean Increment (CMAI), Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ), and other related matters. With the government shutdown, you have not been available to clarify items in the EA. Those clarifications are related to HSS, American Goshawk, and access to specialist reports that have not been uploaded for public perusal.

We look forward to hearing from you on the new comment period due date, once the Government shutdown ends and “non-essential” work can be resumed. We will provide our comments at that time.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the USFS about the management of the Black Hills National Forest.

Sincerely,

Mary Zimmerman, President
On behalf of the Norbeck Society

P. O. Box 9730
Rapid City, SD 57709
info@norbecksociety.com
cc: Shawn Cochran