



**DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

3305 WEST SOUTH STREET
RAPID CITY SD 57702-8160
danr.sd.gov

July 13, 2026

Mr. Todd Butler
Hell Canyon District Ranger
1019 N. 5th Street
Custer, SD 57730

RE: Roby Forest Management Project

Dear District Ranger Butler:

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) supports the Roby Forest Management Project. The proposal aligns with the State Forest Action Plan and is an important step toward ensuring a sustainable timber supply, improving forest health, and reducing wildfire risk.

We support the use of commercial timber harvest on the 10,013 acres of ponderosa pine and urge the Forest Service to seek additional opportunities where commercial harvest improves ecosystem health and integrity. DANR also encourages the inclusion of mastication of logging slash, alongside piling and removing or burning, as an effective method for managing the residual material following both commercial and non-commercial treatments.

Finally, we support the use of prescribed fire and are pleased to see tree planting incorporated into the project. DANR appreciates the consideration of neighboring Bureau of Land Management lands for additional harvest opportunities and can help inform and incorporate adjacent private lands where possible.

DANR stands ready to assist and collaborate on both the development and implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

Amanda Morrison

Amanda Morrison
Natural Resources Planner
Resource Conservation and Forestry Division