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Comments: I support responsible, sustainable logging but this is not it. We do not need or want this kind of logging in the Black Hills. What a mess was created near Custer this winter that looks like clear cutting to me. My family and I and friends frequently hike all over the Black Hills and we are always excited to see areas of spruce trees. They offer habitat for flowers, plants, birds and other animals and tend to grow in moist areas which are not so prone to fire.

Spruce trees have little value as timber. Is that why Sen John Thune and Sen John Barasso are sponsoring a bill allocating \$40 million to this project and I understand this bill would circumvent some of the normal remedies for officials and the public to influence the decisions about it. This is public land and the views of individuals should be heard.

Recent research released by the Forest Service shows that trees are being cut faster than they regenerate and recommended logging activity be cut back. So, is this Spruce Management Project a result of timber lobbyist in Washington?

Why are the new stands of little pines-cropping up all over after fires, etc.-thinned to provide a good habitat for those remaining to grow large and someday be "loggable". Otherwise, they grow into a dense stand of thin unloggable trees and fire hazard.

Please don't cut our old growth spruce trees.