

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/9/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Susan

Last name: Schrader

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Hoelscher: I am Susan Schrader, an Oglala Lakota elder from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. As a native to this land, the Black Hills is sacred and embedded in our history, culture, and DNA. We have a divine connection to the He Sapa (Black Hills) not only as Lakota but as human beings, therefore, all of us. The less development there is in the Black Hills, the better. The less mining and tearing up the land, the better. The Forrest Service is the trustee and steward of the land originally inhabited by native people and should do anything to protect it and keep it in its natural state. The Oglala Aquifer and our groundwater have been greatly affected by the mining of gold and uranium in the past. The runoff affects us all with cancer and sickness from mining. Clearing, driving over, and drilling wrecks our Sacred Black Hills' natural beauty and richness. Categorical exclusion is not appropriate for this project. We want an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will show the damage that mining will create against mother earth. When completed, the EIS should be interpreted conservatively and with great honor and responsibility to keep the land intact and undisturbed. Tourism and outdoor recreation activity are a part of the South Dakota and the nine Tribal Nations in South Dakotas' tourism. Tourism is one of the greatest assets and features of South Dakota. Tourism is based on the beauty and natural state of our homelands. Custer. French Creek and Custer State Park are some of the most beautiful features of the Black Hills. Any mining or activity that would disturb their beauty or affect the water or land should be prohibited. Respect our Lakota Treaty Rights! The Black Hills were illegally taken and are sacred to the Lakota people. Protect, love and honor the land you are responsible for. There is pollution, global warming and overcrowding all over the world. Protect Unci Maka, Mother Earth! [bull] Consult with our tribal leadership and allow our tribal perspective to influence your decision so that mining is not allowed in the proposed area. This project would only be the beginning - the company will want to keep exploring after this proposed project is over. All potential future drilling should be described and assessed now, before this project is considered. Thank you for your consideration and dedication to He Sapa!