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First name: Destiny

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

We are writing this letter due to concerns surrounding your supposed need to log the spruce forest. In your proposal, it states that the area you are looking to "treat" is 49,000 acres in the Black Hills National Forest. The area being considered for treatment is in management area 4.1. If you cut down the spruce forest, this will cause great habitat loss. Many animal species and insect species live in the National Forest area and require the food and shelter that the spruce forest provides. The most common animals that live in the Black Hills are white tail deer and elk (Black Hills National Forest - Nature & Science. (n.d.)). Habitat fragmentation also becomes an issue; the spruce trees that are being proposed for treatment are in the northwest section and divide habitat. Also, if you log part of the Black Hills National Forest, it will be detrimental to the economy of South Dakota and Wyoming. Fewer tourists will visit if parts of the park are closed off or removed. It has also been scientifically proven that trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and provide us with oxygen. If trees get cut down, then more carbon dioxide will be released in the atmosphere. The Black Hills National Forest also holds significant ancestral value for Native Americans. Black Elk Peak, Black Elk Wilderness, and Inyan Kara are important cultural and ancestral locations within the forest area.

Our proposed solution is for the spruce trees to be left alone. The aspen and pine trees can be planted elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Destiny