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First name: Brittany

Last name: Neiles

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my concern over the project to eliminate a sizable amount of spruce trees in the Black Hills National Forest. My experience with the forest is primarily through recreation. I had a fortune to cover on foot and bike the entire length of the Black Hills Centennial Trail, a gem for any forest. Among the many highlights were finding spruce trees. Although I love the site and smell of the beautiful BH Ponderosa pine, the spruce tree's sparseness made them even more special. The best, and most beautiful parts of the Black Hills National Forest are the areas with the most biodiversity. It strikes me as strange that you would cut down one of the harder to find trees. It also concerns me that many of the spruce trees are of a significant size. It is these large trees that the forest needs, especially with continued drought. I have seen evidence to show that some of these trees are well over 200 years old. These are the exact trees we should be protecting in the Black Hills.