Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/19/2022 11:08:35 PM First name: Margie Last name: Helgeson Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a 4th generation inhabitant of the Black Hills, I not only have a substantial family history in this area, but, I have lived here and been committed to preserving the beauty and unique ecology of The Black Hills for my entire life. I was shocked when I read that the Forest Service was planning on reducing the number of Spruce Trees in the forest. From my window I have a view of literally 10's of thousands of pine trees, but only one spruce tree. It is located on a north facing slope near a creek. It provides much needed diversity and esthetic value to the landscape. I admire it every day.

I won't go into the scientific and ecological reasons for my objection to cutting Spruce trees. I know others will do that. My objection is pretty much emotional. It hurts me to think of spruce trees that may be hundreds to years old being sacrificed for the lumber from a few pine trees.

Please scrap the Spruce Vegetation Management Project!