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First name: Carol

Last name: Wipf

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my dismay and disgust at the Spruce Vegetation Management Project (SVMP). There are so many things wrong with it, I hardly know where to begin.

My family has deep roots in South Dakota and we have always had a special place in our hearts for the Black Hills. I have seen with my own eyes how the forest is being "managed." It would appear that the timber industry has taken over the management of the forest-and intends to "manage" it out of existence. The best science available shows the current rate of logging is unsustainable. You know it; the men cutting the trees know it; it is visible to the naked eye.

On short notice, you say you want to hear from the public. Do you?

It appears you want to slip your SVMP through before a new Forest Plan is created. But even if you abide by the current Forest Plan, you cannot in good faith believe that the SVMP will "provide for sustained commodity uses in an environmentally acceptable manner." The proposed SVMP area has already been heavily logged. Much of the SVMP is at the headwaters of multiple major drainages. It would further stress areas already affected by mountain pine beetles.

From where I stand, it looks like the Forest Service has abdicated its responsibility as a steward of the forest. The SVMP overlaps with at least three other projects: the Westside Project, the Theodore Restoration Project, and the Chimera Vegetation Management project. As you well know, this "management" means logging, logging, logging.

Real management would include small-tree thinning and prescribed burns in areas that have already been logged. Instead, without a scrap of evidence, the Forest Service pretends that clearcutting spruce will make the forest "more resilient" and reduce fire hazard.

But I am really telling you what you already know. So I hope you will not move forward with this tragically misguided project.