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First name: Ernest

Last name: Grafe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: While selectively thinning some spruce stands MIGHT have a use, cutting wide swaths will only leave ugly scars within the Black Hills forest and perhaps lead to a new and dense growth of small trees that could be a serious fire hazard. Perhaps it would also detract from efforts to thin stands of young trees where the Mountain Pine Bark Beetle has wrecked havoc. Old-growth spruce trees are a beautiful and valuable asset for those who appreciate the forest, and provide important habitats for the plants, birds and animals.

Thank you for your consideration.